ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Too many Abads in gov't? Solons feel ill at ease

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A "KAMAG-ANAK INC." is emerging in the new administration and it is not the Aquino or Cojuangco family, militant lawmakers yesterday said.

Samag-anak Inc. refers to certain relatives of the late President Corazon Aquino, the incumbent's mother, who became influential and were linked to controversies during her administration in 1986-1992.

This time, however, lawmakers are feeling ill at ease over having too many

TOO MANY ACT

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Year of Cougar: Boots, Rita discover joys of younger men onscreen

WORLD / A27

World celebrates as South Africa's Mandela turns 92

LEARNING / F1

What's hot, what's not in choices of college course

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, July 19, 2010 ** 11 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 221 P18

Facebook ghosts reach out to reconnect

COURTNEY PURVIN got a shock when she visited Facebook last month. The site was suggesting that she get back in touch with an old family friend who played piano at her wedding four years ago.

FACEBOOK/ A6

Review of Trillanes coup case draws fire

Senators hit Palace meddling in judiciary, Senate

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

TWO VETERAN senators yesterday said President Aquino's order to review the coup d'etat case of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV was tantamount to meddling in the judiciary and the Senate.

But Senators Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara were careful not to directly criticize Mr. Aquino for ordering the review, with Arroyo blaming Palace advisers for giving the Chief Executive "bum advice" and Angara saying he believed Mr. Aquino was a "well-meaning" person.

Mr. Aquino has said Trillanes may have been a victim of injustice for having been charged with participating in a coup d'etat in connection with his role in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. The detained former Navy officer has been barred from attending the Senate sessions since he was elected senator in 2007.

Mr. Aquino's directive coincided with a fight battle for the Senate presidency. If allowed to attend the sessions, Trillanes is expected to vote for Mr. Aquino's ally and Liberal Party mate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Both Pangilinan and rival Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. of the Nacionalista Party, have been unable to get the majority support of 13 senators, with only a week to go before the new Congress opens on July 26.

Palace officials have denied

REVIEW/ A17

NOT QUITE NORMAL A technician (right) measures the water level of La Mesa Dam in Quezon City at 76.21, its normal level. The dam supplies drinking water in Metro Manila, but the National Water Resources Board has reduced its water supply by 20 percent due to the declining water level of Angat Dam (top) in Bulacan. MARY GOMEZ

Metro water woes traced to dry Angat

By Riza T. Olchondra

IF ONLY RAINS pour in Bulacan instead of Metro Manila.

Water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. are facing dwindling shares of water from Angat Dam, which is hardly getting enough replenishment from the recent rains after a long dry spell.

Maynilad has resorted to water rationing. Water disruptions in its network started on July 16 and were expected to continue till July 23.

Manila Water said there was no reduction yet on the supply and pressure in the Ayala-led company's area.

Officials of the water service providers said they wished it would rain in Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Typhoon "Basyang" added only 20 centimeters of water to Angat, according to government data.

Angat Dam, which supplies

METRO/ A15

Harnessing people power in fight against corruption

By Dennis H. Arroyo
Contributor

"We relived the spirit of people power during the campaign. Let it take us to good and effective governance."
—President Aquino, June 30, 2010, inaugural address

HOW THEN can people power be harnessed to promote good governance? The people can be involved with

COMMENTARY

groups and can institutions that have been effective in fighting corruption.

I previously did research for the World Bank on the best practices around Asia. Filipino NGOs are among the leaders in the field, but we can learn from our neighbors.

It would be best for civil society to work with the government in applying the cutting edge to battle corruption: guarding the money, monitoring performance and leveraging information.

Groups can express their priorities for the budget, monitor its crafting, analyze its details, and put its pros and cons in layman's terms. The NGO Action Aid in Nepal scrutinized the national budget passed by the king in July 2003 without a sitting parliament. Its estimate was that more than half of development expenditure would not

HARNESSING/ A11

Third boat in 'balangay' epic voyage unveiled

BUTUAN CITY—A group of explorers seeking to retrace the ancient Filipinos' migration unveiled on Friday a third wooden boat patterned after the pre-colonial vessel called the "balangay."

The "Sama Tawi-Tawi" will join two other balangays—"Diwata ng Lahi" (Fairy of the Race) and "Matatag Bang Butuan" (Backbone of Butuan) in Zamboanga City—for an expedition across Southeast Asia and then to China.

"We will leave for Zamboanga on Wednesday and rendezvous with the two other boats," Art Valdez, leader of the expedition, said yesterday.

He said the three boats would leave Zamboanga on July 28.

Valdez said the third boat was named after the boat builders belonging to the Sama, a semi-nomadic sea-

THIRD/ A14

Whitewash of Trillanes' role in coup plot feared

By Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT AQUINO showed his hand in trying to break the impasse over the election of a new Senate President when he ordered the justice department to review the coup d'etat case against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

ANALYSIS

Mr. Aquino said state prosecutors could have erred in filing the case against Trillanes and that the former Navy officer, detained in military camps for seven years, may have been a victim of injustice.

It was not clear what urgency prompted Mr. Aquino to order the review.

Whatever the reason, it op-

WHITEWASH/ A17

Children learn of healthy eats in read-along

GUEST STORYTELLER Patricia Marie Tamolak, 2009 Miss Philippines-Fire, reads a book for children during the Inquirer Read-Along session in Makati City. NOEL ALVIAR

By Lawrence de Guzman
Inquirer Research

EAT YOUR GREENS. Stay away from junk food.

Those were the topics of Inquirer Read-Along stories held to celebrate the National Nutrition Month.

A special read-along session was held at the head office of Mead Johnson in Makati City on July 10, featuring Mead Johnson Nutritionals Philippines president and general manager Paul Richards.

Saturday's session, on the other hand, was headlined by 2009 Miss Philippines-Fire Patricia Marie Tamolak, Sophia Mead principal Ann Alianza, and award-winning storyteller Rich Rodriguez.

Over 40 children trooped to the Inquirer office in Makati and listened to Tamolak read "Si Joey at ang Gabay Gang." Written by Beng Alba and illustrated by Rina Dandan-Albano, the story is about how a child becomes healthy and strong by giving up junk food and eating vegetables.

Tamolak, who took up preschool education in college, was a warm and engaging storyteller.

CHILDREN/ A8

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

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1 7 3 | 1 3 0
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1 1 2
SUPER LOTTO 6/49
18 23 29 32 36 49
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'Noy appointments good for long term'

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S appointment of big business executives to the energy, public works, transportation and communications departments may be good for investors in the long run but bad for consumers in the short term, according to an economic adviser of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who switched his support to Mr. Aquino.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the foreign fund managers and investors classified Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson and Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus as "thoroughbreds" and the "biggest asset" of the Aquino administration.

"We expect more bang for the buck as these three agencies implement rigorous project selection at the least cost and value engineering in the back end of projects," said Salceda.

"We can foresee larger and incremental durable infra investments, particularly in public-private partnerships as they provide transparency into these transactions," he said in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

Initial spike

"But for consumers, there could be an initial spike in rates on the back of legacy contracts but these should fall as new supply comes on stream. With market confidence, these contracts become less onerous because new, superior-with-higher supply would compel incumbent players to behave reasonably competitive in pricing, reliability and terms."

Salceda, a former classmate of Mr. Aquino's, was reacting to criticisms that the appointments of Almendras, Singson and de Jesus had created conflict of interest situations in their respective departments.

They owned not only 49 percent of public capital outfits but also oversee the regulation of power rates, series rates, toll fees and telecommunications rates.

Almendras was a long-time executive of the Ayala and Aboitiz groups and was president of Hixcs. In Winter Ion Gas Systems weeks ago, Singson was head of Mountain Water, owned by Glenn Pardo and DMCI Holdings, until last month. De Jesus used to be president of the Lopez-owned Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and executive vice president of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Salceda said he expected Almendras to take pragmatic approaches to stabilize the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market, or WESM, and make a policy pronouncement for lowering power costs.

Proves himself

He said Singson had proven himself by "keeping water rates low at Maynilad by fighting the Lafkos from shut-offs while keeping the water supply reliable in its concession area, and turning Maynilad into a lucrative firm with basic price ceilings."

Singson resigned last week as chair of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System over objections [illegible].

The public works chief had earned himself head of the facility in a concurrence signaling a move that drew criticism.

The proposed P52-billion LaMesa dam was a joint venture project of San Miguel Corp. and the MWSS. It would have diverted water from two river systems to the Ipo Dam to supply potable water to metro Manila.

On De Jesus, Salceda said the former public works secretary of the late President Corazon Aquino was "a proven hand in infra and his integrity inspires investment confidence that makes Department of Transportation and Communications projects more competitive."

De Lima pulls Abcede back at PCGG

By Norman Bordadora

NOT SO FAST.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima has nullified Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Commissioner Ricardo Abcede's resumption of the leadership of the agency. Following the resignation of PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio on June 30.

De Lima informed the Department of Justice (DOJ) was still in the process of determining who should be officer in charge from among the commissioners of the constitutional body tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, his family and cronies.

The PCGG is under the supervision of the DOJ.

De Lima said she had designated neither Abcede nor Arquiza else from the PCGG to take over as OIC after Sabio resigned his courtesy resignation.

"The DOJ is tasked with bringing true and complete justice to all. This means that we must always act in accordance with the facts and the law. We cannot take shortcuts," she said in a statement.

"In no will look unwholly into the records of the PCGG, in order to ascertain[illegible] whether the next OIC should be. Just no one pressure our decision for this is a clear warning that no designation as OIC will be valid without the express and written approval of the secretary of justice," she said.

In another memo, De Lima asked Abcede to explain why executive should be taken against him for his usurping of the leadership of the PCGG.

In his memo of July 14 that erased it all, Abcede said that he "shall serve as officer in charge, being the most senior commissioner to the organization, until a new PCGG chairman or any new commissioner is appointed."

De Lima nullified the memo immediately upon learning what Abcede had done.

He has since acknowledged De Lima's memo nullifying his assumption as PCGG officer in charge.

"Therefore it is clear, and even Commissioner Abcede himself has already conceded, that his attempt on July 14, 2010, to designate himself as OIC was null and void," De Lima said.

"We're just double-checking who is truly the next in rank, then he or she will be the OIC," she told the Inquirer in a text message.

"What could not in the right of certain individuals being presumptuous and jumping the gun, without we clearly showing who is the rightful OIC. That's why I had to issue that memo nullifying the memo of certain officers issued without the authority of the secretary," she said.

LESION NOT LEARNED
Children comb through garbage and water lilies washed up by Typhoon "Basyang" in the Marikina River at the Brgy. Tumana in that city. Garbage continues to clog the waterway, the issue of last year's "Ondoy" apparently lost on local officials and residents.

I didn't know about bribe try on massacre witness–Agra

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER JUSTICE Secretary Alberto Agra has denied knowledge about an attempt to allegedly bribe a witness to the Maguindanao massacre to end doing nothing about it during his watch.

Agra issued the denial after Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said last week that her predecessor might have to explain his inaction after National Bureau of Investigation Counter-Terrorism Unit chief Ricardo Diaz alleged that he reported the bribe attempt weeks ago to the then justice secretary.

"When I issued the resolution finding probable cause against the Ampatuans upon further evidence submitted by private respondents, I was then committed to prosecute the case with earnestness and vigor," Agra said in a statement.

"As attorneys to [illegible] witness will certainly frustrate this commitment, and I will not allow this to happen. Consequently, had I known of this callous attempt to bribe a witness, I would have ordered a deeper investigation," he added.

Agra also said he was willing to submit himself to an investigation in connection with the alleged bribery attempt. "I am open to any probe to order to shed more light on this deplorable incident," he said.

Agra had earlier found no probable cause to charge detained former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan and former Maguindanao Vice Gov. Ahmad Ampatuan in connection with the massacre but later sustained the charges against the two following additional evidence submitted by the victims of the massacre.

Diaz made the allegation after he filed a bribery complaint against retired Philippine Air Force Col. Jessica Mariano.

Mariano, Diaz said, tried to offer witness Kenneth Dormitorio P1.5 million in exchange for dropping his testimony against those charged in the massacre.

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Party-list group bucks Comelec

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BAYANI party-list group Ang Kasanggapi San challenged in court and accordingly the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) decision disqualifying its nominees, which numbers in he percent, for violating members of the marginalized sector.

Ang Kasanggapi, which says it represents indigenous peoples, said in a statement that the Commission could not kick its representative, business executive and truck broker Teodorico Haresco, son of Congress because he had been pro-claimed.

Since Haresco has taken his oath of office as a lawmaker, he could only be examined by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, said the group.

"It is the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and not the Comelec which has sole and exclusive jurisdiction to pass upon the elections, returns and qualifications of its members," it said, citing the Constitution.

It also contended that Haresco had started out as a micro-entrepreneur and had been involved in projects that helped those in small and medium scale enterprises.

Haresco is willing to challenge the Comelec's ruling before the Supreme Court in order to prevent the interests of the group and its constituents, the group said.

The Comelec, in disqualifying Haresco and Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez, said Ang Kasanggapi representatives, and that the two did not belong to the marginalized sector.

It noted that Haresco had numerous business interests while Lucy Torres-Gomez is the spouse of Leyte Governor Dominga Ang Kasanggapi representatives," the Comelec's First Division said.

Ang Kasanggapi was also disqualified in the previous congress when its representative earned seat to be Rita Lourdes Aragones, the former President's sister-in-law. The fourth Aquino to the 14th Congress was one a nominee of Ang Kasanggapi in the last elections.

Comelec rushing party-list canvass

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) is in a hurry to proclaim the remaining winners of the May 10 party-list race.

"We are the agency tak want to complete the party-list canvassing as soon as possible. We're rushing the matter on the disqualifications of nominees and cancellations of registrations," Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said in response to query the weekend.

He said the proclamation was delayed because of the holding of special elections in several municipalities in the number of votes cast for the party-list race must be determined as this would be the basis for the number of seats awarded to the winners.

Results needed

The Comelec said it needed the results from the special elections that would be conducted in Basilan which has 345 disturbed precincts; Lanao del Sur, 28; and Sulu, 442. The poll body said the special elections would be held in September with an 8-mid-lawyer.

The poll body said there were also petitions for reconsideration of earlier decisions by the Commission and in two divisions on the disqualification of winning party-list groups and their nominees.

Sarmiento could be said the other Comelec commissioners were inundated with queries from impatient party-list groups that had won at least two percent of the total votes cast for the party-list race and were assured of a seat in the House of Representatives.

"They are concerned that they may not have slots in the next House committees and their nominees have not undergone the orientation for lawmakers. They want to attend [President Aquino's] State of the Nation Address [on July 26]. They also have to pay the salaries of their staff," Jimenez-Andaya

PORT MONOPOLY, PORT COMPETITION:

Ang Tunay na Rason

New port records set by Harbour Centre

Now, why do they want to bring down the Smokey Mountain Project?

In figuring this out, we look back at what we have achieved. The project gave rise to the 7Hectare Manila Harbour Centre, which hosts a multibillion seaport, the Harbour Centre Port Terminal.

It must be known that, in the past, we offered to other port groups the management of the Manila Harbour Center's terminal. Back then, RII Builders had no record on port operations. But there were no takers.

Thus, 15 years ago, Harbour Centre undertook this business by itself. And it succeeded.

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The efficiency and productivity of our cargo handling systems automatically helped in bringing down the cost of goods and basic commodities, which benefit the Filipinos in general.

Call for transparency and cooperation

We appeal to our detractors' sense of honor and duty to the country.
We call on them to squarely face up to the competition to provide all to give the best for customers. Come out openly. HIDING BEHIND BLACK PROPAGANDA IS THE WAY OF THE COWARD.

RII Builders, which undertook the Smokey Mountain Project, has a record of participating in industry modes of cooperation. In the sphere of housing and construction, RII Builders led the **Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association (CREBA)** as year 2007 to 2008.

In his time as CREBA president, **Rogelio Romero II** led the organization to unified roadshows to key cities around the world to spread the message that the Philippines is an attractive place to invest in.

"Other sectors of our economy have shown how the ethical spirit of competition works for the best. The liberalization of the telecommunications and airline industries have brought about better services at lower rates. Take this case of telcos, airlines, food and consumer products are local and not monopoly, and state media. The best industry should rule to place among thriving industries. Just as in race by the spirit of competition," Romero declares.

HCPTI breaking up port monopoly

Consequently, RII Builders and Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc. (HCPTI), including new subsidiary Manila North Harbour Port Inc. (MNHPI), are essentially breaking more than five decades of monopoly of the Philippine ports. This is the real reason why they are mounting a hostile-fenced smear campaign against our three companies, with the SMDRP being unequivocally used as the main issue against them.

Nevertheless, the courts have spoken. From the Regional Trial Court to the Court of Appeals and all the way up to the Supreme Court, the verdicts are all in favor of RII Builders, in effect strongly upholding the integrity of contracts and contractual obligations.

The Supreme Court upheld the validity, legality and constitutionality of the SMDRP with a unanimous vote on Aug. 15, 2012. The Supreme Court again upheld the SMDRP with a unanimous vote of 14-0 when it ruled on the Motion for Reconsideration filed by complainant Francisco Chavez.

Latest setup on a Second Motion for Reconsideration, the Supreme Court ruled with finality and reiterated the same pronouncements.

Rule of law as growth catalyst

In so doing, the courts have given due their roles as the refuge of the oppressed and the bastion of fairness are also essentially the foundations of economic growth.

For only in stable policies, as affirmed by the courts, can business entities plan for the future and serve their roles as the country's economic growth engines.

Call for unity in the business community

It is in this light that **RII Builders** and its subsidiaries abhor adhere to the law in the conduct of their businesses, and for which we call on the rest of the business community to foster and support a level playing field and a healthy competition.

We fight and cut each other's throat when we can work together to move this country forward.

A flourishing maritime trade and port business

Let us embrace a sense of nationhood. Let us follow the lead of our President PNoy in giving the Filipino a good, happy, satisfying life. Let us begin by demonstrating our good citizenship. Now to the majesty of the law.

Economic advancement can only thrive in a spirit of fairness that can only be guaranteed under the rule of law.

The courts have spoken enough!

Smear drive vs Smokey Mt. Project slammed

It has become obvious that some quarters are out to destroy the image of **R-II Builders** through the media, in the guise of public advocacies of fictitious organizations. Yet, the real objective is to eliminate port industry competition.

These detractors have been badly beaten in the proper forums. Now, they are desperately trying to subject R-II Builders to a trial by publicity. Persistently, the detractors question the integrity of the **Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP)** to malign **R-II Builders** and serve their selfish ends. They have even brought their lies to the Ombudsman and may do the same later to the halls of Congress.

This heavily-funded smear campaign against the SMDRP and R-II Builders surfaced after the company's success has become evident in the port business. And furthermore, its achievement is now breaking a monopoly of the industry.

The timing of this smear campaign is highly suspicious. We are convinced that it is being waged to undermine our resolve to be a partner for development and make us look bad in the eyes of the public and policy makers.

Whichever way they bring their campaign to bring us down, we carry on. We continue to achieve what is rightful and legal. We proceed with our mission to give the best service to our clients in our projects.

We have battled in the arena of law. We have won. And we continue to put our trust in the rule of law.

Let the rule of law prevail!

Expect rains in Luzon, Mindanao

WEDNESDAY rains due to an active low pressure area that will affect the eastern part of Central Luzon and an inter-tropical convergence zone in Mindanao may trigger flash floods and landslides in those areas, the weather bureau said yesterday.

"Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, becoming cloudy with scattered to widespread rains which may trigger flash floods and landslides," according to Benjie de Ito of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

De Ito said the low pressure area had not yet formed into a tropical depression and that based on satellite and surface data it remained at 80 km east of Central Luzon, particularly of Baler, Aurora, as of 2 p.m. Sunday.

"The tropical depression and the rain was due to the rainy season," he said.

He said Metro Manila will continue to have scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, especially in the afternoon or evening and the nation of Manila Bay will be slight to moderate.

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AFP seeks Yusoph help in finding son

THE MILITARY YESterday underscored the need for Election Commissioner Elias Yusoph to cooperate in help troops track down the kidnappers of his son Nurahiza.

"[He need] to get intelligence information and certainly Mr. Elias Yusoph should coordinate and then talk with commander to the field. We understand he has some data which will be very useful, rather than go to the media and air his gripes," Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), told reporters.

Mabanta described as a "breakthrough" the killing of the main suspect in the abduction of Nurahiza Yusoph, 24, but could not say where the kidnap victim was or who's holding him.

On July 14, Immanuel Hernandez, alias Commander Delta, was killed during a gunfight with government forces in Maslog, Lanao del Sur. He was believed to be behind the kidnapping of Nurahiza on June 20.

Police earlier reported that the abduction of the youngest Yusoph was "politically motivated." (Analyn H. Ly)

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Facebook ghosts reach out

Front page A1

The friend had died in April.

"It kind of freaked me out a bit," she says. "It was like he was coming back from the dead."

Facebook, the world's biggest social network, knows a lot about its roughly 500 million members. Its software is quick to offer helpful nudges about things like irrelevant birthdays and friends you have not contacted in a while.

But the company has had trouble automating the task of figuring out when some of its users has died.

That can lead to some disturbing or just plain weird moments for Facebook users as the site keeps on shuffling a dead friend through its social algorithms.

Facebook says it has been grappling with how to handle the ghosts in its machine but acknowledges that it has not found a good solution.

"It's a very sensitive topic," says Meredith Chin, a company spokesperson, "and, of course, seeing deceased friends pop up can be painful."

People over 65 are adopting Facebook at a faster pace than any other age group, with 6.2 million signing up in May alone, three times as many as in May 2009, according to Retrevo.com's Web candidate.

People over 65, of course, also have the country's highest mortality rate, so the problem is only going to get worse.

One says Facebook recognizes the importance of finding ways to provide new to preserve pages as a place where the mourning process can be shared online.

Whether profiles can be "memorialized," or converted into Web pages that are stripped of some personal information and no longer appear in search results, is leaving friends torn still post messages on those pages.

Of course, the company still needs to determine whether a user is, in fact, dead.

But with a ratio of roughly 350,000 members to every Facebook employee, the company must find ways to let its members and its computers do much of that work.

To memorialize a profile, a family member or friend must fill out a form on the site and provide proof of the death. Since link to an obituary or news article, and the staff members of Facebook will then make her or his profile read-only.

But this option is not well publicized, so many profiles of dead members are never converted to tribute pages.

Those people continue to appear as online members' pages and friend suggestions, or in features like the "memorial" box, which has been spooking the living since it was introduced in October last year.

One says Facebook is committed to creating software that can scan for repeated postings of phrases like "Rest in peace" or "I miss you" on a person's page and then dispatch a human to investigate that account.

(New York Times News Service)

Children learn . . .

Front page A1

"I love reading to kids. I find it very fulfilling," she said. "I also collect children's stories because I want to put up my own preschool one day."

Importance of 'pasok'

Abucay, who had directed a chef's session, read "Kumo Ko Ng Pansit Ngayon," written by Bess O. Villanueva and published by the Philippine Children's Television Foundation. The story is about a child who learns the importance of not wasting food.

Abucay, who is a nutritionist and dietitian, said, "It is important to eat a variety of foods. You should eat a combination of go-, grow- and glow foods."

Twelve-year-old Ivana Ikura said she enjoyed Joey's veggie story. "It was fun and made me want to eat more vegetables. I always learned that if I avoid junk food, I would not be sick," she said.

Ten-year-old Mikki Inda said that from now on, she would make "the go-, grow and glow foods the guide for my meals."

Special session

A special Inquirer Read-Along session gathered over 40 kids at the head office of Mead Johnson in Makati on July 10.

Richards, Mead Johnson official, read "Bahaba Espesyal" written by Vernie Bonsol and illustrated by Jill Arroyo Posadas. Published by Adarna House, it is the story of how a sick child gets better by eating healthy food prepared by a loving grandmother.

Richards, who is a natural storyteller, engaged the children's attention by asking them about their favorite foods. "Do you eat sunnymaid? Sweet? Bala dude?" he asked.

Each time, the kids would respond with a resounding "Yes!"

"I used to—In storytelling for kids in Sunday School is three," Richards said. "It's a welcome stress reliever and I enjoy it."

Asked why Mead Johnson, which is active in feeding programs around the country, has aligned itself with the reading advocacy, Richards said: "Good nutrition and good education go hand-in-hand. If children eat well, they also learn well."

Rodriguez, an Inquirer Read-Along mainstay, read "Isot Sabi Dili" written by Serlie Jose and illustrated by Janet Moss. Published by Adarna, the story is about a messy boy who chose not to eat and starts eating vegetables.

A stronger reader, Rodriguez incorporated funny noises and hand movements in her session.

"It's very engaging," said Liberty Fernandez, who came with her four children. "The activity reminded me of my childhood."

"The stories were fun," said 4-year-old Yana Fernandez. "I learned that we should take care of our health."

Credits

Saturday's session was made possible by Hands-On Manila and Makati Sporting Association. Books donated by Marissa Ona Pelaez of the Gingerbread Children's Bookstore were given away as prizes while TM Marina Marketing Corp. provided the snacks.

The July 10 session, hosted by the Inquirer's Migz Gavin, was made possible by Nelson Pozzobon and Mead Johnson, which gave Filipino copies of "Bahaba Espesyal" and treated them to Lemon Square cake and cookies.

The next Inquirer Read-Along session on July 31 will commemorate the life and legacy of the late President Corazon Aquino who died a year ago on Aug. 1. It will be held at the Inquirer office in Makati at 10 a.m. Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparas at 897-8808, local 320.

Asean 'concerned' over Koreas' tiff

HANOI—FOREIGN ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) shared "deep concerns" over the sinking of a South Korean warship, according to a draft document which also calls for unimpeded and accurate facts.

"We expressed deep concern over the sinking of (the) ship Cheonan and the rising tension on the Korean peninsula," says the draft, which fails to apportion blame.

Agence France-Presse obtained the document ahead of the 16 foreign ministers' annual talks, which began in Vietnam today.

Asean groups the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Burma (Myanmar).

The discussions culminate on Friday in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Pacific's largest security dialogue, which will be attended by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Tensions

Tensions over the sinking are expected to overshadow the ARF talks, diplomats and observers said.

Foreign ministers of North and South Korea as well as Japan, Russia, China and Europe are among those expected at the meeting of the 27-member bloc.

Seoul has said it wants ARF to condemn North Korea for the torpedo attack which broke the seaborne in two in March with the loss of 46 lives.

Retaliation

Pyongyang has vehemently denied involvement despite the findings of a multi-national investigation, and said that it was ready to retaliate if provoked.

"We urged all parties concerned to exercise restraint to avoid any escalation," the ministers' draft says.

It reaffirms support for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and encourages a return to six-party talks as soon as possible.

After a United Nations statement on the ship sinking, in clear accord, North Korea said it was willing to participate in restarts to the multilateral disarmament talks which it abandoned last year.

Commitment

The talks involved China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the United States.

Kurt Campbell, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, said Pyongyang would have to demonstrate a commitment to change its "provocative ways" before dialogue would start.

On July 9 the US Security Council condemned the Cheonan attack but did not assign blame—a result hailed by North Korea as a "great diplomatic victory."

Analysts and diplomats said the ARF was also unlikely to accuse Pyongyang. AFP

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Joining online forces Gibson and El Tanghug is Tawi-Tawi.

Unlike the rare balangays, the Santa Tawi-Tawi has an engine and communications equipment, such as radio, cell phones and GPS, aboard, posing the question, "So that it can be discovered by the sailor of naval vessels during its voyage in some waters," Valdez said.

Support vessel

"The Santa Tawi-Tawi is essentially a support vessel to the two balangays on our voyage to our neighboring Southeast countries and China," he said.

The boat is 15 feet long, 15 feet wide and 18 feet high.

Considered only for now that the Maarawa hong Sanlaan and the Diwata ng Lahi, the Santa Tawi-Tawi resembles the balangays that were unearthed by archeologists at the site of a pre-Hispanic settlement here.

Valdez said that the Santa Tawi-Tawi would sail a total of 11,000 kilometers to Indonesia, Subah, Vietnam, Taiwan and China, and back.

The historic voyage hopes to retrace the migration and trade routes of ancient Filipinos to Southeast Asia and China.

The team is expected to return to the Philippines in December.

The Philippine leg of the balangay voyage lasted eight months and covered 2,500 km.

The Diwata ng Lahi entered in Manila on Sept. 1 last year and arrived in Zamboanga City on May 1 after more than 19 port stopovers.

The three balangays are expected to reach Vietnam in time for the association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in September this year. They will then proceed to China and arrive in Shanghai by mid-October for the 2010 World Expo.

Agnes Ambion, project director of the Boracay Global Stream, said the Santa Tawi-Tawi was proof of the balangay's continuing journey that highlighted the importance of maritime industry in seafaring and trade, *Rondhilin A. Caligaid, Inquirer Mindanao*

WATER LEVEL UPDATE A La Mesa Dam technician displays an update of the water level reading for consumers.

Metro water woes traced to dry Angat

More than 90 percent of Metro Manila's domestic water supply had an elevation of 157.19 meters as of 5 p.m. on Sunday, way below the critical level of 160 meters and lower than the dam's lowest level of 158.15 meters in September in 1998, an El Niño year.

"Unfortunately the reduction in our water allocation has forced us to cutback water to elevated areas, in areas with a lot of water loss usually due to illegal connections, and in areas that need further review upon," said Rhudy Ramos Tuvera, head of Maynilad external communications.

Severely affected

Of those affected in Maynilad's network, around 1.6 percent may be classified as severely affected, having air locks of water supply or less.

Among those severely affected by the July reduction are 23 barangays in Quezon City, 13 in Caloocan City, four each in Malabon and Valenzuela City, two in Las Piñas City, and one in Navotas City.

To ease the water supply problems in these areas, Maynilad said it was conducting regular system adjustments in its pipe distribution network.

It also deployed 20 water tankers, installed five stationary water tanks, maintained four deep wells and recovered over 115 mld (million liters per day) since February by intensifying its leak repair program.

Maynilad said it would also make the supply schedule available to the public through the media, its company website, Smart InfoSmart, e-mail blasts and Maynilad Hot Line.

Jose Saviña, Manila Water corporate affairs manager, said the company was also affected by El Niño, but its efficiency gains of bringing nonrevenue water or system loss from 63 percent in 1997 to about 11 percent as of end-June mitigated the impact of El Niño on customers.

"This we did after investing more than P10 billion to lay new lines and rehabilitate old ones," Saviña said.

The National Water Resources Board, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, and the two concessionaires are regularly meeting every week to monitor the dam levels to determine whether a cutback on raw water allocation is needed.

Raw water allocation for Manila Water and Maynilad is still at 1700 mld from the normal 2400.

Pagcor check was for P21-M in burgers

By Gil Cabacungan

THAT'S A lot of cheeseburgers and fried chicken.

Ronald McDonald must be laughing all the way to the bank after the former treasurer of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) reportedly racked up a total of P21 million in food purchases in just eight days from the American fast-food chain McDonald's.

Based on documents obtained by the Inquirer, former Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino approved checks in the amount of P21,118 million and payable to former Pagcor president and chief operating officer Rafael Francisco two days before President Aquino took office on June 30.

'A small amount'

Former Pagcor senior vice president Edward U. Ong dismissed the check as a "small amount" to contract in other transactions involving Pagcor.

Ong, who made the request for payment on June 25, said the check was meant to reimburse Genuino who paid for the food that were distributed to employees "for their services and operations in line with their thrust to provide security to the population."

But Pagcor spokesperson Jay Santiago said the new management could not believe that policemen are that many cheeseburgers and fried chicken.

Santiago presented 28 official receipts from Golden Arches Development Corp. issued on eight separate days—Jan. 11, March 11, April 5, April 16, May 4, May 12, May 13 and June 3, when the single biggest daily purchase of over P6 million was made.

Golden Arches holds the McDonald's franchise in the Philippines.

For the policemen

While the check was issued on June 28, a certification attesting to the purchases was made by Police Director Roberto Rosales only on June 29.

It read, "This is to certify that the items/services given by Pagcor or the Philippine Amusement Gaming by way of food provisions was received and consumed by PNP personnel for our various activities and operations."

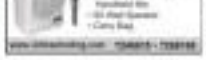
In a phone interview, Rosales said he only attested to the receipt of the food but not to the actual value as stated in the receipts.

He said the police had to rely on food donations because the government did not have the funds to feed policemen on duty.

"We got food from McDonald's and Jollibee, mostly fried chicken and rice, because this does not spoil easily and non-issues, some cheeseburgers," said Rosales who noted that Pagcor also gave the police gas money to remove

that they would pay for their services.

Pagcor is currently conducting an audit of its books, specifically with regard to midnight deals and cash disbursements in the final days of Genuino's tenure.



TUCP: How's GSIS fund doing?

A LABOR leader has called on the new chair of the Government Service Insurance System, Daniel Lacson, to immediately ascertain and disclose to the public the true state of the pension fund's $345-million Global Investment Program (GIP).

"GSIS members have no idea whether the GIP has been making or losing money, and to what extent it has been gaining or incurring losses. Over the last two years, the global financial markets have been highly turbulent. We reckon the GIP has been shaken by the turmoil," said Ernesto Herrera, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) secretary-general.

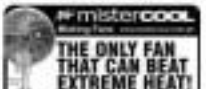
President Aquino earlier said that in all the places where he campaigned, retired government employees, mainly former public school teachers, repeatedly asked him where their GSIS pensions went.

"So I want to know the conditions of the GSIS. I don't agree with Lacson's explanation that it has failed to service its members because of computer glitches," Ido Aquino said on Thursday, when he named Lacson chair of the pension fund.

In a statement, Herrera said he could not agree "more with the President. "When we [were] don't get their pensions on time, they don't care about the excuses for the delay. They will simply suspect that their pensions have been stolen one way or the other. Or that GSIS does not have the money, and is simply stalling payments."

He said Lacson should also find out and reveal to the public the management fees being paid by GSIS to Credit Agricole Asset Management Ltd. and ING Investment Management for overseeing the GIP.

Filomeno Garcia, former president and general manager of GSIS, said a couple of years ago that the GIP had a guaranteed 6 percent annual return on investment. Later, he said the GIP was expected to generate a 5-percent yearly return. *Jaymee Anog*



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 19, 2010
16th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Mic 6: 1-4, 6-8
Gospel: Mt 12: 38-42

Some scribes of the Pharisees, some Pharisees spoke up, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." Jesus answered them, "An evil and unfaithful people want a sign, but no sign will be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah. In the same way that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the monster fish, so will the Son of Man spend three days and three nights in the depths of the earth. At the judgment, the people of Nineveh will rise with this generation and condemn it, because they responded to Jonah's preaching. But here there is greater than Jonah, in the judgment, the Queen of the South will stand up and condemn you. She came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and here there is greater than Solomon."

Commentary

"Then some teachers of the law and some Pharisees spoke up, 'Teacher,' they said, 'we want to see you perform a miracle.'"

To believe in Jesus only for the sake of his miracles is to reduce his word and will of God to some kind of magic act.

Then like the Pharisees, we miss the meaning of the Word of Life completely.

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OPINION

Obama's oil

EDITORIAL

THE MASSIVE leak in British Petroleum's runaway well in the Gulf of Mexico was finally capped last Friday. In what was carefully described by both the oil company and the White House as a temporary fix to the year's worst environmental disaster. But the ecological damage, after almost three months of non-stop leakage, is already certain to last for years. The political damage sustained by the Obama administration may have a shorter life span, but it is almost as severe.

US President Barack Obama offered a weary initial assessment of the capping, merely saying it was a positive sign. A top BP executive struck the same note: "It's far from the finish line .... It's not the time to celebrate."

It certainly isn't. It is important to remember that the sealing of the leak through the use of a 75-ton concrete cap, the latest in a series of high-profile attempts to stop the uncontrolled flow from the ruptured oil well 5,000 feet below sea level, can still go seriously wrong. The reinforced force of the rushing oil might crack the seafloor, or it might spring more leaks in the well, turning an unprecedented disaster into an unmanageable catastrophe. Even if the cap proves to hold, the necessary next steps to control the well for good remain formidable.

The prospects of containing the damage from the millions of gallons of oil already spilled into the water remains as bleak.

As it is, after an explosion ripped the Deepwater Horizon oil rig apart on April 20, killed 11 workers and caused the worst oil spill in memory, four of the five US states that border the Gulf have already been living through a nightmare: a hard-hit fishing industry, oil-soaked beaches and marshes, a growing number of wartime life or risk. The real damage, even assuming that the temporary fix proves to be the basis of a permanent one, is incalculable.

Politically, despite remarkable successes in pushing major reform legislation through a vulnerable Congress, Obama's approval numbers have fallen, and the stubborn persistence of his lowered ratings can be traced directly to the three-month crisis. As it dragged on, comparisons began to be made, one to George W. Bush and his grievous mishandling of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, but to James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, the American president during the 444-day Iran hostage crisis.

Obama never to do the opposite of what Bush did or, rather, did not do: He got deeply engaged in the management of the crisis; publicly put pressure on BP to do something, anything, to plug the leak; immediately deployed government resources to help relieve affected communities. But nothing worked for an interminable 87 days, and this lack of results wounded him politically. His administration's insistence that BP install a battery of deep-water canisters—the so-called spill-cans, initially designed to prevent BP from fudging its estimates about the volume of oil leaking out of the well—only deepened the wound.

For week after week, the image of an uninterrupted flow of leaking oil, broadcast on TV and especially "livestreamed" 24 hours a day on the Internet, created among Americans a sickening sense of helplessness. There was nothing to be done. It recalled Carter's similar predicament in 1979-81, when Americans were held hostage inside the US embassy in Tehran. Despite the United States' nuanced might (Carter even ordered a Hollywood-style military attempt to rescue the hostages, which failed completely), the American government was completely at the mercy of another power. There was nothing to be done.

It is this running up against limits, this direct strike at that objectively false but distinctly American sense of exceptionalism, that has proved humiliating and has dogged Obama down with it. To be sure, not every country allows offshore drilling; and not every oil-extracting company has been as reckless, as cavalier with standards and warning signs, as BP. But the blow to the American psyche, already battered from the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression, has been especially hard.

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The Pimentel vs Zubiri electoral protest

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE NEW administration of President Aquino and the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Renato Corona should do something to speed up the wheels of justice in the Philippines. Even simple cases take years to decide; complicated cases become more and academic by the time they are decided by the courts. That is unfortunate for the litigants—both for the accused and the complainant.

The Gout itself cannot escape blame for this. In fact, it sometimes is the primary culprit in the delay of justice.

Among the slowest in resolve cases are the Senate and House electoral tribunals which are composed of Supreme Court justices and selected members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The politicians naturally vote according to their party affiliations, whereas the justices are supposed to be the electoral pundits. The justices are expected to provide the balance and the justice, few they are in the minority and are always outvoted by the politicians. Too often, an elected protest is decided by the electoral tribunals when the term is already more or less almost over. The victory of the protestant becomes an empty victory, the election would have already run away with the salaries, allowances and perk loaned of the position. Nothing is left to the winner.

It is the duty of a political theatre to grab the proclamation, and honor the position, and then use delaying tactics in the trial of the decision protest.

The latest election protest case decided was late by the Supreme Court is that against Rep. Aniel Villarosa III by Jocelyn Pimentel. Pimentel Builds Against Corruption (CBAC), which is supposed to belong to the youth sector. The high court ruled that Villarosa is not eligible to sit in Congress in his last term from 2007 to 2010 because he had already served the 30-year age limit for a youth sector representative.

But Villarosa's term is already over, and he was not ordered by the Court to return the salaries and other emoluments he illegally collected while he was passing himself off as a member of Congress. That's one more case of justice delayed, justice denied, which is a black eye to the judiciary.

Another electoral protest still raging is that between Sen. Migs Zubiri and unsuccessful candidate Vicky Pimentel. Zubiri won proclaimed the 12th winning senator in the 2007 elections. Pimentel finished 13th. The latter filed an election protest with the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), assailing the results from 15,556 precincts in Mindanao, mostly in Maguindanao, home turf of the Ampatuan clan.

Zubiri filed a counter protest, questioning the results in 77,200 precincts all over the Philippines.

To hasten the resolution of electoral protest cases, Rule 19 of the SET provides that the protestant initially pilot protestee which consist of 25 percent of the contested precincts. If in these precincts at least 50 percent of the votes are spurious, then the recount for the remaining 75% can proceed. Otherwise, the protest should be dismissed.

Pimentel's pilot precincts showed at least 50 percent spurious ballots. The second contestant, the votes attributed to Zubiri in the proclamation and gave Pimentel more than a 1,000,000-vote lead.

Zubiri's pilot precincts, however, showed only over low spurious ballots. But the SET resolution signed by seven of the nine members said: "It reasonably appears from the results of the initial revision and appreciation of the ballots and election documents in the pilot censure protested provinces that Zubiri has a prima facie valid cause to pursue his counter-protest. Also, it was reasonably shown that the officially proclaimed results for the 12th senatorial position in the May 14, 2007 election would be affected by the disputed assembly is to therefore, a continuance of the proceedings in the remaining 25 percent of the counter-protested provinces be further conducted."

The chairman of the SET, senior Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, and Sen. Pia Cayetano dissented.

The view of the majority "is entirely baseless," said Carpio. "Contrary to the majority's bare assertions, the appreciation reports for Quezon City, Manila, Batangas and Sultan show that the number of false or spurious ballots in those areas do not constitute 'more than 50 percent of the ballots' contained in the pilot secular city or province. In fact, the spurious ballots constitute a mere 3.3 percent of the total contested ballots in QC, Manila, Batangas and Sultan.

"The result of the initial revision and preliminary appreciation of ballots discloses that Zubiri's net recovery of votes does not justify the conduct of further proceedings in this case," Carpio added. "Accordingly, I vote to dismiss the counter-protest filed by Juan Miguel 'Zubiri."

Senate Supreme Court voted in Carpio's favor, setting aside. "Rule 19 provides for a speedy and accurate process. The decision of the majority will result in further delay, effectively thwarting the will of the people."

It took the SET three years (until the end of the last term of the senators) to examine the ballots in 30,000 contested precincts. The revision of the ballots in the remaining 52,200 non-pilot precincts, representing 75 percent of the total number of contested precincts in Zubiri's counter-protest, will surely take more than three years, assuming the same pace of revision. The term of the senator would be over by the time the revision is finished.

"This defeats the very purpose of designating pilot precincts in election protest cases, for, that is, to dismiss the protest or counter-protest if the results of the 25 percent pilot precincts show no improbability to overcome the opponent's lead," Carpio concluded.

However, the majority decision will still have to be obeyed.

Mandate

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M ASTONISHED that people insist only on seeing one part of the 2001 survey. That's the part that says 60 percent of the respondents have "trust and confidence" in Erap. There's another part that's just as important, if not more so, which is the one that says 77 percent of the respondents have "much trust" in Joey Binay. The first is to be expected. The second not so.

Especially given that Binay was demonized immediately after the elections when he boasted as the new vice president. The charge was not just that he had cheated the voters in stolen the vice presidential vote, it was also that he had cheated the taxpayers in the campaigns' money. The latter, his detractors said, had not been sufficiently explained in the court during the elections, though they did not go on to explain why they failed to carry out an inquest on him. They did point to ways they were doing this now to prevent him from leaving any place in Pasay's exit for the corrupt Cabinet.

The 2001 survey was conducted June 25-28, at the campaign against Binay, which arose most after elections day and escalated up to when the survey was conducted. Binay had taken his oath, it is true, it is not just the fix Venice. The public clearly has a different opinion of the matter. I myself had thought that even if Binay were not killed by the smoke, he would be debilitated by them in a major way showing some parity. Binay is made. Surprisingly, not at all. Some 77 percent of the public saying they have much trust in you is as near a category of vote of confidence as you can get, indeed some 77 percent of the public saying they have much trust in you is as good an endorsement, if not a ringing endorsement, of that same public's lack of confidence in the people enlisting you.

At the very least, it cannot augur well for Mar Roxas' electoral prospect, a thing that looks every inch like a face saving effort, but which is really a face losing one here. The SWS survey seems like a slap on it. To go by my experience with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the public does not normally give high marks to people they perceive to have stolen the vote. In fact, I'd be very curious to know what the public thinks of the prospect of Bongo joining Erap's Cabinet next year.

Public scrutiny, I'd be very curious to know what the public thinks of some of Erap's appointees. Sendido Unity Solimen as social welfare secretary and Rafih Abad and John Abad as budget and Presidential Management Staff head respectively. Their group has been loudly complaining about the "failing-with-its." Irony is more to order the Cabinet appointments, which they are as their God, or Pinoy given...it's certainly not your given—no?. What would you call it besides and daughter tandem bringing watch at the parent/government?

But we'll have to wait for the next SWS survey for that one, if at all it decides to carry it out.

Right now however, what are we to make of the survey results? Why the impressively high trust ratings not just for Pasay but for Vicky? The latter even after the accusations of corruption that ran his way?

My answer to that is that during the elections and after, the public's view of corruption was, and is, defined by the kind of corruption that reached during GMA's time. That is not just corruption in the sense of theft of money, which is the most evil sort. Stealing People's money and human time, and even God's time. That is corruption in the sense of, along with the mind-boggling theft of money, the theft of the vote, the theft of reason, the theft of democracy, the theft of decency, the theft of shame, which crimes not only permanently stunting Marcos' time.

That is the kind of corruption the public sees more than anything else. That is the kind of corruption the public wants something done about more than anything else. The voters made Noynoy Aquino president and Binay vice president because of the leading personalities on the opposite of 2004 and because Binay was anti-GMA, and both could be trusted to prosecute GMA and all those who helped her mount that kind of corruption.

It's the high trust rating given to Vicky earlier that I find most telling given to Vicky earlier that I find most telling given to Binay's claim to fame is that he fought GMA for the longest time, longer even than Noynoy, running Makati into a safe haven for marches and demonstrations against the epically corrupting administration of the erstwhile Lakas-CMD-Kampi and allied members and manatees. The high ratings suggest that for the public, the real framework, and the real project, is not something after petty crooks, it is losing after the called that stole more than our money, that in fact stole our honor.

Truly, I'd be curious to see how the public will rate Pasay's appointees who were also once pillars of GMA rule. I'd be curious to see if they are not the ones the public sees as corrupt.

That SWS' respondents gave Pasay high marks you can interpret in various ways. That they gave both Pasay and Vicky high marks, you can interpret only in one way. They trust, and expect, the two leaders who have fought GMA to undo her rule, bring justice to the plunderers, and repair the world that was ruined by presidency the guilty and convicting the innocent. They trust and expect the two leaders who have fought GMA to run after those who helped her loot everything that country holds sacred, wrench the country from its moral moorings, and drag this country into a pit beyond the pale of the very word "corruption."

That's their mandate. It doesn't get any clearer.

Parents and sex education

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

It is quite obvious that parents themselves are divided about sex education for their minor children in school. I think that there should be a search for a compromise somewhere, since what is involved is a conflict of rights and obligations, a task in the principles involved should be helpful.

Educational institutions themselves, whether private or public, have the constitutional duty to "strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline." The manner of carrying out this duty, however, is not specified. There is room for the creative formulation, by the state, of plans and programs that can be acceptable to all.

However, the duty and responsibility to "strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline" belongs primarily to parents. As the fundamental law puts it, "The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government." What is clear from this is that the primary right and duty belong to the parents and the role of government is subsidiary. Hence, some rational array of conditions must be found whereby government can satisfy the views of disagreeing parents.

Indeed, modern society recognizes the indispensable role which the modern state has to play in the field of education. Parents need the help of the state in the proper formation of children for civic and social life. The role of the state is performed either through state-established schools or through state regulation of private institutions of learning. This subject is now treated by the Constitution more fully than it ever was in earlier constitutions. Moreover, the role of the state has been strengthened but the role of government is specified as in support of the "natural right and duty of parents. The law has added the adjective "primary" to modify the right of the parents in order to emphasize that the right of the parents is superior to that of the state.

The case of all this, of course, is the basic philosophical principle governing the duty of the natural forum. There is ample jurisprudence on this as applied to education. For instance, a statute prohibiting the teaching of German to students up to a certain age was declared invalid. The US Supreme Court said, "For the welfare of his kind Commonwealth, Plato suggested a law which directly provides: That the wives of our guardians are to be common, and their children are to be common, and no parent is to know his own child nor any child his parent. . . . The proper officers will take the offspring of the good parents to the pen or fold, and there they will deposit them with certain nurses who dwell in a separate quarter; but the offspring of the inferior, or the better when they chance to be deformed will be put away in some mysterious, unknown place, as they should be.' In order to encourage the individual and develop ideal citizens, Sparta assembled the males of seven into barracks and entrusted their subsequent education and training to official guardians. Although such measures have been deliberately opposed by men of great genius, their ideas touching the relation between individual and state were wholly different from those upon which our institutions rest; and it hardly will be affirmed that any legislature would impose such restrictions upon the people of a state without doing violence to both letter and spirit of the Constitution."

Another decision invalidated a law requiring children up to a certain age to go to public schools only. The Court said: "The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."

This is not to say however, that the only things parents have are rights. They also have obligations. And the state, as parens patriae, has the duty to ensure that parents perform their civic duty to prepare their children for life in society and to protect their health. Thus, in a case where a law required parents to send their children to school up to a certain age, the parents were excused when it was seen that the families themselves were adequately preparing their children for civic life.

This brings us back to what I said above: the need to look for a formula that can satisfy the rights of parents and duty of the state to see the waiting of the youth for civic life. I believe that a formula, with necessary modifications, may be found to what is said about religious instruction in public schools. The Constitution says: "At the option expressed in writing by the parents or guardians, religion shall be allowed to be taught to their children or wards in public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours by instructors designated or approved by the religious authorities of the religion to which the child, ward or ward belong, without additional cost to the government." The essential sexual morality is all part of religious upbringing. Sex is such an important subject that something similar to what is done for religious instruction might be worked out for sex education.

Truth and condominiums

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

JUST TWO weeks in his new office, Vice President Jejomar Binay's political undercover has already set in, if we are to glean anything from the fact that the news about his acquisition of the chairmanship of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) carried only anecdotal paper investments of the multimillion dollar. And Binay has only himself to blame for that.

From day one, so, even before that, Binay limited to the "sovereign" of local government units. With some help from media, which is not unlike scrapping with, Binay's impudence was expressly given the fate of his becoming a "square peg in a round hole" if the position was not given to him.

Except that he clipped say, saying "round peg in a round hole" instead of "square peg in a round hole." Just tell the cigar. Yet, he said that. Which his spokesperson followed up with: "It's the Office of the President that is the square hole" "stick" could more like a diamond. Again, tell the tapes.

But with a euphoric citizenry looking forward to good governance, the vice president's unpretentious was put under the microscope. Call that an exercise of people power. And the backlash echoed in history, and in the case of Binay, he made statements with a double tongue. Flaw of them is obnoxiously transparent. Everyone in their camp, the master included, suddenly turned tame, like once raging bulls forced into a corral.

Pure tantrum, vice president, no who vapors was what Binay himself answered, as he said, when President Aquino offered him the chairmanship of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. This at a man who is obviously self-conscious of riches and of power. Again, put that under the public microscope.

The original mistake was actually made during the campaign period. The campaign focused on Manny Villar's handling with the C-5 connection allegations, but Binay's people were caught flatfooted, and the Villar camp's ill-conceived, squalid tactics instructions about rival candidate Noynoy Aquino's mental stability.

There simply was not enough time to focus the spotlight on Binay's own philanthropy. By one own act of omission, Binay escaped a closer look into the education. He was simply lucky. Indeed whether he could also lie to the public as he had lied to his wife, his answer was very revealing: "I did not lie to my wife, I just kept it (his philanthropy) a secret," as if there is an ounce of difference between lying and keeping one's infidelity a secret.

Mahal is impressive. Well, its high-rise buildings, elite boutiques, corporate headquarters and all. The less transparent governance of the city easily escapes public notice. But now that Binay is in the national fray, it will not be as it used to be for him. The standards are applied to Villar must be the standards we must now apply to the vice president.

Those standards are the standards we apply to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If we exempt anyone from these standards, then we cannot expect to find the truth; we can only end up with a farce. Finding the lost is no different from driving around with soup strings blowing.

We must make public officials accountable. This is a struggle that started with and reaches back to the Marcoses with whom Binay recently seized such blood. (I thought Binay was a "human rights lawyer." What does PHP-Lahan comrade Satur Ocampo say about it?) Selective justice is a common scar of any Philippine regime. If we insist on prosecuting only Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we can be sure there will be many more GMAs to come in the future.

It is precisely our proclivity for making exemptions that breeds a culture of impunity. It is this that in fact breeds little vampires even among barangay officials who think nepotism is the law of the land. "Small" violations of law lead to abuse of power. A tiny malignant cyst could spread and cause a debilitating ailment, even death.

Binay's chameleon plastic about the lack of integrity in the vice president's office [leading us nothing], his desire to live in a palace while the rest of the city sees only Villar's opportunism, his family ghosts, his convoy's going through a red light—and who knows what's more to come—those are all manifestations of a mind-set spawned by the misuse of government power.

Although welcomed by many, the Truth Commission remains problematic and self-serious as if we are in the 1st century CMH only. Partial truth is no truth at all.

The rumors, true or not, peddled by Binay's detractors, about condominium units allegedly "exchanged" for City Hall permits in Makati is not far from alone to arouse. Binay, even if he is now the vice president, is not above the law. In the process of the truth, this fact should not be spared, the more reason there is because of his size.

What is so difficult about this proposition?

• • •

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Sen. Antonio Trillanes, prisoner of conscience

SEVEN YEARS ago on July 27, 2003, some 300 officers and enlisted men took over Oakwood Hotel in Makati City. They denounced corruption in the military service and called on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to step down from office. The more prominent among the officers were Navy Lt. (now senator) Antonio Trillanes IV, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, Capt. Gerry Alejano and Navy Lt. James Layug.

After some 19 hours of negotiations with a government emissary, the group headed by trillanes left their stand of small and non-special arms to the Middle East, Gen. Roy Cimatu, it was agreed that the rebels would be allowed to leave the hotel safely, giving up their arms in Fort Bonifacio, and surrender under the Articles of War.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

The late Max Soliven, publisher of the Philippine Star, who was one of the negotiators wrote about the negotiations in his column of Monday, Aug. 4, 2003.

Soliven said: "What bothers me is that the mutineers or rebels, whatever may be tagged on them, are being doubly-censured. Initially branded by the media as heroes, or patriots in their deeds, certainly not this writer. For since I was in there with the negotiating group, I'll have to speak out about what was agreed . . .

"Being charged in civilian court is not expected by the mutineers. They surrendered themselves to military justice under the Articles of War—to note, court martial . . .

"Military courts martial are not automatically pledged by the government panelists—not prosecutors in the regular justice system. Otherwise, they might not have surrendered with the assurances of a firefight and detonation of explosives they had planted all over the place.

"Was anything written down? A memorandum agreement? Of course, not. But we must consider that an individual's word of honor is supposed to be as binding as a piece of paper. Indeed, in honor was what was invoked at the end. Gen. Cimatu pledged himself as an officer and a gentleman and so did the rest of the government panel. . . .

"Worst of honor lords those who give them, not the accused or the imprisoned. Cimatu and the government officials involved should honor this deal."

The negotiators were Cimatu and "palabra de honor" flew on the wireless. Senator Trillanes, who was elected while in detention by the votes of some 17 million Filipinos in 2007, was locked up at the Camp Crame Custodial Center, on trial in a civilian court. He was not allowed to post bail to attend Senate sessions or to enjoy limited liberties. In contrast, his other co-accused had been released under various conditions. His fellow conspirator Brig. Gen. Danny Lim, who accompanied him on the long march down Makati Avenue to the Peninsula Hotel, was allowed bail, while Senator Trillanes continue to languish in prison.

The Arroyo administration must have considered Trillanes such a dangerous enemy, subjecting him to extreme measures. Compare his treatment to that of former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos in the famous Mega Pacific P1.3 billion poll automation scandal, and Jun Jun Binay of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Last week, Trillanes was granted bail for the Peninsula Manila takeover. He has already spent more time in prison than some people charged with more serious crimes. He probably has a better case for the longest serving prisoners of conscience in a Philippine jail.

Allowing him to attend the opening session of the new Congress on July 26 is a good first step in correcting injustice. With three more years to serve in his Senate position, he has much to contribute in terms of his students, his love of country and his desire to bring improve the moral fiber and the general welfare of the people. His record of senate work even under detention speaks for itself. The votes of 11 million Filipinos should not be easily set aside. Whatever his actions may have been, he has paid for them with the heavy price of imprisonment—for seven years of his life.

• • •

The Trillanes case is a pretty good example of the dispensation of justice under the Arroyo administration. The other face of a justice system that is harsh with foes but partial to friends is what I once described as the Lacsamana Express.

Remember "Pete" Lacsamana, who along with six others, was convicted by the Cebu Regional Trial Court in 1999 of kidnapping two lovers, Marlene and Jacqueline Ching? The girls' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Ching, figured in the gang. Marlene was blind-folded and pushed off a cliff. Her broken body was found, but Jacqueline's was never recovered. Four years later, the Supreme Court not only affirmed the conviction but also declined the non-guilty or illegal detention with homicide and rape.

In May 2005 during one of President Arroyo's visits to Spain, she signed a prisoner exchange treaty called the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain. This particular treaty was ratified in six months' time and I drafted the ratification process "The Lacsamana Express," courtesy of the Arroyo administration. For the benefit of their friends, this treaty was drafted to make sure that the completed prisoner is by no means for the person's comfort and welfare of a miserable Spanish tapisi under the guise of reciprocity.

In October of last year, Lacsamana was placed on board EGH flight 104 bound for Amsterdam and headed presumably for Spain. Reports say he was not handcuffed and neither did he have leg irons. When Mark Jiminez was said to have left the country on board a private plane, he was not all the way in a Florida jail. Lacsamana was treated like the average, everyday airline passenger.

So far, Lacsamana appears to be the one and only beneficiary of the treaty with Spain. There have been no Filipinos serving time in Spain who have been returned to the Philippines to continue serving their sentences here. In fact, under the treaty only how many Filipino prisoners are serving time in Spanish jails.

No one knows, either, if Lacsamana who is serving the remainder of a 40-year sentence is still in a prison or under house arrest. Perhaps, the new administration should look into the matter.

• • •

We join the many friends and admirers of Gen. Renato de Villa in wishing him all the best on his 79th birthday tomorrow. Boss de Villa has served his country well in various capacities. He left public service with his integrity and reputation intact without the slightest hint of scandal or wrongdoing.

Ramon Farolan is a retired professor, bank officer and occasional journalist. Comments to ramon_jf@yahoo.com; fax 8284434

Obey, decide or drift

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

"IT" IS here again; what else but the Reproductive Health bill (RH); the revival by Rep. Edcel Lagman and another version by Rep. Janette Garin. (364 bill that bore the dead," because, 7/7/10) his months-in-the-making to see that RH, into the "bill" and "RH" decades ago, will rise again and Legate.

Statesmen like "there are no changes in the mind of the Church," or "no sense, but they don't turn up" kill dialogue and hide/refer drama to the contrary. The mind-off is very serious and is exacerbated by sex advocates, first cousin of RH.

In this issue, I have two issues and especially hope to be heard.

The first is a huge sector that belongs to the Catholic Church, body and soul. Its members believe that the official Church makes no mistakes; all its pronouncements can't the weight of dogma and must be believed and followed. As strong language (read: agitated), that dogma are no more but "like" "believe in the rules of the RH bill," "virtue of death," "contraceptive mentality." With a great press and TV exposure and pressure politics too (read lobbying or bullying, depending on whom you ask), they back the Church in its attempts to "impose" its specific birth control.

It's a shame and considering the huge challenges to progress long and one doesn't expect truss-or-dress from on high. A dear friend said that if anyone in her home practiced contraception for the land to "leave the house." Included sexless was the that I locked off.

Yet, I can't resist the reminder that in the future, church approval, no contraception now, may go the way of the "sin" of usury (interest) (from "unusual" to "moral"; or of slavery, exonerated from "moral" for bloody centuries is thoroughly "unusual." Never say "never"!

The second group in this war of attrition? The people who ignore the moral issue and other thinking about RH. Enthusiastic, which isn't so bad and which is already happening.

They examine if every jot argument of the Church holds water or sponge holds. Like: "The world is big enough for so many people," or "Every sex act must be open to procreation." (Is it so in natural birth control?) Or "Contraception will open the floodgates to abortion and promiscuity" (negative or not?), or "teaching sex education is the duty of parents" (not exclusively of parents.) Do they? Can they? Did we parents? Did yours?

Two articles: "Two Hearts" by Thomas A. Shannon and "The Limits of Authority" by Richard Gaillardetz from Catholic magazines—America and Commonweal, respectively—actually can free what is already happening and is being facilitated done by many.

"Free Hearts"—with total assurance "How moral theologians help set Catholics on the right course"—proposes "not so much to tell people what to do as it is to help them become moral agents by forming their conscience." As "the greater of the Church's conditions," the Church lays down the single moral accountable criterion of the Church's magisterium "not 'how-to' is drilled to the moral agent, the person, making the decision" on a concrete case on hand; who weighs all the value, moral, scientific, historical factors entering the picture and synthesizes these with the Church's tradition.

"The 'Limits of Authority'"—with loud insistence "When bishops speak . . . Catholics should listen but don't have to agree"—takes a similar vein. It speaks of three levels of Church teaching: laying down the Church's "universal moral teachings", admitting specific, softened moral principles emerging from the primordial principle, and the prudential judgment of the moral agent.

In other words, something happens in the primal principle, assessed by circumstances, scientific or doctrinal developments, current and historical context, as it travels down to the ground where a decision must be made.

The third level belongs to the Church. That is **her duty and explains why encyclicals are boring** with general principles. In the second and third levels, the moral agent takes a decisive role; episcopal authority is "diminished" and the "prudential judgment" must be respected. This process is neither chopping nor choosing morality but applying it judiciously. "The guidance of bishops . . . does not trump the obligation of Catholics to exercise their own prudential judgment."

I suspect this is the process young couples and only go through. No matter that their immigrant parents cry themselves hoarse upgoing RH. Try the process on RH and see where.

The third group embraces the greatest number of people—those colonies that pour out of offices, RH masks, without trucks, barely dignified air in humid activities. Farmers, fisherfolk, people of the earth in farmhands, are homeless with 24 grandchildren and 12 great grands. What choices have they got? "Control yourself women," I told a laborer. His smile clearly said he was entitled to "it," to continue directing his "it."

They don't know what RH is or what's happening between Congress and the Church with its bumbling prelacretial upstart for the poor. Ten any parish in this biggest network in the country set up a systematic teaching program on natural family planning? Have pilot projects been successful? Who talks to the people? Who teaches them?

The first group is in the Church's garden. The second helps themselves. It's the people from the third group for whom RH must be studied most carefully and collaboratively. Nobody is forcing them to do this or that. But they need information and help, badly.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, bank officer and occasional journalist. Comments to mgvdc_pb.ph@yahoo.com; fax 8284434

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CARP is romantic but...

LETTERS

"LAND FOR the landless" was the battle cry of the militants group that arose unhappy with President Corazon Aquino's inaugural speech which conspicuously failed to make any mention of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), as recently extended. To the minds of those misguided elements of our society, parcellization of our agricultural lands into 3-hectare units is the panacea under no individual farmers is an ideal deserving to be studied. Well, that is all so romantic, but is it rational? Hogwash! If he's, stop feigning subsidies (Planting rice is never fun, bend down all day in mud.)

It is absolutely true! After decades of trying to implement CARP, almost 60 percent of our agricultural lands are now in the names of such farmers. But where are we now in terms of "food sufficiency" for instance? To date, we remain the world's No. 1 importer of rice! That is the biggest regression than our kind of agrarian reform is so stupid as stupid does.

Corporate farming is the only way to go. For the purpose, vast tracts of land have to be brought into and under a comprehensive program where agricultural production is fully mechanized or automated, as it is done in other Asian countries which took over us as by the millions of motorcars. How can anyone argue against this irrefutable fact?

—STEPHEN L. REMIAUNG
stevenremiaung@yahoo.com.ph

FVR didn't touch AFP Modernization Fund

MR. REPUB to the July 5 column of Jose L. Mercado, particularly, in his comments on the AFP Modernization Fund.

This is not the first time that he raised a question on the fund. In his Jan. 6, 2005 column, Mercado wrote, "Former President Fidel V. Ramos' government borrowed the modernization Fund disappeared without a trace, leaving soldiers with worn-out boots, shoddy uniforms and ill-fed rations." We promptly responded with a letter to the editor dated Jan. 7, 2005, to say, "Gen. Ramos' government never borrowed from the AFP Modernization Fund. Instead, it was the AFP Modernization Fund that borrowed from the government to finance the AFP Modernization Program." Under the Ramos administration, the Fund was steadily and operationally sound. On April 30, 1998, barely two months before the national elections and two months prior to the assumption of office by a new president. Not wanting to embark on "midnight purchases" and as primitive decorum, the handling of the Fund was left to the incoming administration.

The New Standard-set's "Statement of Financial Purpose," which Mercado himself quoted in his April 20, 2010 business column, would be relevant and seriously reminded:

"Investments are to be a description of verifications. Invoking can multiple attainers or using various codes for common signal such standards. This discipline separates journalists from propagandists, interviewers, etc. Journalists are more disciplined in observing these verifiability of journalistic interpretation can. The stories of their credibility is still their sources, unobtrusive features and stylistic methods."

—NICK LAGUNTAS,
spokesman of former
President Fidel V. Ramos

PDIC exercising due diligence in claims evaluation

THE BAU reflection to the letter of Imelda Sarmiento, (inquirer, 6/28/10).

Please be informed that existing loan contracts or from providing specific details about the claim of Herminia in public, other claim is now due based on initial investigations and records, she disbursed up her claim three times, and her brother, when fixed loan transaction, the investigation was made clear to her that the loan of her claim at the time of inquiry. We shall continue to look into this in order to further improve our systems. We have spoken in much detail with Sarmiento about her claim.)

We would like to take this opportunity to likewise assure the public that the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is committed to paying valid deposit insurance claims at the soonest possible time. For this reason, we undertook process re-engineering of our claims servicing operations in order to map with the minimum number of duties for transactions arising from the almost simultaneous closure of the legacy banks and to expedite the payment of a number of other banks. PDIC is mandated to exercise due diligence in the examination and validation of insurance claims.

We are pleased to inform you that our recently re-engineered process has been awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Certification. This have broaden our processes against international standards. There to engineered processes will enable us to serve the public better.

—MARIA LEONORA DE LOS ANGELES,
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DAR-7 still sifting genuine from pseudo-applicants

THIS IS in response to the letter titled "DAR asked to step forward to 'bastardos'," of Buffy Bagaporo Bernardo, (7/8/10) He said: that "(4th Regional Director Rodolfo T. Ilano has been blocking the implementation of the Supreme Court order)" dealing the Hda Cacanasan Plantation Co. Inc. (PCPC) in Tanjay, Negros Oriental as mandated under CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The assertion is merely untrue and inaccurate. To date, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) regional office 7, Cebu City, is done in sending up its correspondence to

Review of Trillanes cou

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that Mr. Aquino is interfering with the judiciary.

Separation of powers

Interviewed over dzRB radio, Angara said Mr. Aquino's directive would affect "fundamental principles," namely the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary, the independence of the courts and the autonomy of the Senate.

He said dropping the rap cases against Trillanes could create a backlash and "boomerang" on the President.

"If there was a miscarriage of justice, let the courts redress the wrong without anyone telling them to do it because it's inherent in the judicial system," Angara said.

He said Mr. Aquino's order also could be seen as "disorganizing the military court justice system."

"More important as we see the lines of issues outgoing down, this may not be related to the desire of the President to party to get the Senate leadership, but the timing is so close that people may suspect that this was being done so that Sen. (Trillanes) can vote for his candidacy. That is what we're trying to avoid," Angara said.

Intensive wooing

He told the Inquirer that Mr. Aquino's statement was "unfortunate."

Angara, who belongs to a bloc in the Senate whose support for Drilon will determine the chamber's presidency, said that "wooing" of his group had grown intensive.

"Well, that is what we're trying to avoid because (the Senate presidency) is an internal affair of senators. We should not destroy our credibility and effectiveness by displaying our susceptibility to outside forces," he said.

Angara said he knew for certain that reports that Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla had committed support to Pangilinan were "baseless."

He said his bloc—which includes Revilla, Loren Legarda, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Lito Lapid, Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Cynthia Villar—was likely to have a consensus by Wednesday on whom to support.

'Every word is policy'

Angara said in a phone interview that the private order was "unprecedented interference on a judicial matter."

Angara belongs to Villar's bloc, whose members include Miriam Defensor Santiago, Pia Cayetano, Alan Peter Cayetano and Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Recalling his previous statement that it would be good if Mr. Aquino stepped back first 100 days to allow free of bedding, Angara said this "interesting does not include his subalterns who give him bum advice."

"The President's legal advisers should understand that every word of the President, formal or

Whitewash of Trillanes' role in c

From page A1

painted as a clumsy and heavy-handed presidential intervention on two fronts—one, in the courts, which have jurisdiction over the case, and the other, in the Senate, which is deadlocked over the election of its next leader in time for the opening of the new Congress on July 20.

In a bid to take control of the Senate, the Liberal Party (LP) has declared its full support for Francis Pangilinan as its candidate, with the backing of Mr. Aquino.

Open fight

Despite presidential backing, Pangilinan is short of the 13 votes he needs to win a majority in the Senate. He has supporting him one vote more or no more than six votes.

Pangilinan is competing with Jack Marcos Miller of the Nacionalista Party who himself can count on no more than four LP members.

Two possible dark horses have an alternative—Sen. Edgardo Angara, who claims to have the support of seven senators, who are not the LP and NP members, and incumbent Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who is backed by at least three senators.

Trillanes, who has not been allowed by the court to attend the Senate sessions, has filed a petition with the court to grant him bail and to attend the opening session of the Senate on July 20, when it will elect its new officers.

Crucial vote

Trillanes' vote will be crucial, especially for the LP bloc of Senator Pangilinan, who is struggling.

Failure of the LP to win the Senate presidency and the majority in the chamber could be the first major embarrassment for Mr. Aquino in his attempt to win the acquisition in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Earlier, defections from the former Liberal (LIB) Koalisi ang Pilipino appeared to have weakened the candidacy of LP Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for speakership.

Whether the court would allow Trillanes—jailed for leading a military mutiny centered at the Oakwood apartments in Makati City on July 27, 2003—to attend the session is uncertain. A refusal could strengthen the attempt by Mr. Aquino to gain majorities in both houses and to ensure passage of key measures including pet legislative agenda.

Narrow and legalistic

There are doubts in legal circles over whether the justice department could legally intervene in the court's jurisdiction over the Trillanes case.

Lawyer Reynaldo Robles, Trillanes' chief of staff in his Senate office, said initiatives to implement the President's statement were now in the hands of the state prosecutors.

In ordering the review, Mr. Aquino gave the opinion that the law on coup d'etat did not forbid takeover of the board by the military rebels. He set out a narrow, technical and legalistic interpretation of the law.

According to Mr. Aquino, "Trillanes was first incarcerated by virtue of the charge of participating in a coup. However, if

p case draws fire

informed, is a statement of policy. It cannot be intimidated. It cannot be classified as a personal opinion. He is President every second of the day," Anyaoku said.

He said the Diklanen case was already in court and "to plant language, over the executive like the case in point ... the executive should no longer interfere."

"Allowing Williams to participate fully or partially with the former duties, the role and final say is with the courts. The executive cannot interfere with that," Anyaoku said, adding that this was why the Armed Forces could also not interfere because the Williams case was now before a civil court.

Aquino backed

Some said that even if Williams was allowed to attend the January session on July 26 and vote for Pangilinan, the case would still end up in a stalemate, because he can't "break."

The President's order for a review of Williams' coup case, however, has won the backing of a member of the Diklanen Commission, which investigated the root causes of the Oakwood mutiny.

Retired Commodore Ben Bobbie said Mr. Aquino's position on Williams was not "interference" with recommendations of the commission.

"There is no interference here," Bobbie told the Inquirer. "There should really be punishment, but it must fit the offense. The charge should not be far removed from the crime committed."

He agreed with Mr. Aquino that Williams might have committed an offense other than coup d'etat.

"It could have been many things short of coup d'etat," Bobbie said. "The coup charge made it clear that it would eventually not prosper. The elements of a coup were not connected by the government to prosecute him."

Critics in past military rebellions whose the perpetrators were forgiven by then President Fidel Ramos. Bobbie said the Oakwood mutineers were punished far more severely than they should have been.

"The punishment meted from one end to another, from very light to very hard punishment," he said.

Palace defense

Malacañang defended Mr. Aquino's order on the Williams case.

"That is his personal opinion," Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said. "There was no judgment there. We leave (the decision) to the appropriate officials."

Lacierda said the order would mean only the charges Williams was facing in a military court.

On the rebellion case pending in a civilian court, "we won't do anything about it," he said. "We will not interfere with its independence."

coup plot feared

you review the Revised Penal Code, there is a provision that says how a coup is committed, it says if there is mutiny, violent attack. There there's an insurrection. The insurrection does not include a hotel."

Merely an opinion

Mr. Aquino made it clear he was merely expressing an opinion and that "my opinion is ... the (prosecutor) should not have let that case prosper."

The case was filed in the context of the Oakwood mutiny, in which the rebels seized the Makati hotel and demanded the resignations of then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over alleged corruption. The coup collapsed after the rebels failed to muster wider public and military support.

It's unclear whether the President's opinion was well-thought-out, as he was speaking impromptu with reporters in what appeared to be an "ambush" interview.

Mr. Aquino's opinion sought to make a distinction between a successful and a failed coup. It was not a considered opinion.

It ignored the fact that the crime of coup against President Gloria Macapagal between 1986 and 1989 were multi-victim crimes, and all failed. They involved attacks on the seat of government, military installations and strategic public institutions, such as telecommunications facilities...all classical targets of coups—and even hotels and business centers, as in the case of the December 1989 uprising, in which there was street fighting in the Makati central business district.

Larger political objective

Under Mr. Aquino's opinion and narrow interpretation, the Oakwood mutiny did not qualify as a coup because it did not attack the seat of state power and strategic public institutions.

General business districts are economic strategic centers and attacks on them have proved to be disastrous to the economy. The President appeared to be making light of the importance of economic centers in the economic failure of coups.

In dismissing the Oakwood coup as lacking the requirements for a coup, Mr. Aquino ignored the findings of the Feliciano Commission, which looked into the root causes of the Oakwood rebellion.

The key finding of the commission report was that the Feliciano led mutiny was "part of a larger conspiracy to grab power from Arroyo administration."

The commission backed government intelligence reports that the Trillanes group planned to seize power, restore the ousted Joseph Estrada to the presidency and appoint a 11-member revolutionary junta.

From this perspective, Mr. Aquino's opinion appeared to be an attempt to minimize the importance of Oakwood as a strategic target of a violent attempt to seize power.

It also appears to be a whitewash of Trillanes' participation in the coup and clear the way for his attendance in the Senate session for a larger political objective—removal of the legislative agenda by the Aquino administration.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Death toll from 'Basyang' still rising

RESCUERS retrieved three more bodies from the sea Sunday, raising the death toll from Typhoon "Basyang" to 68, but more bad weather was hampering search operations.

"Three more bodies were recovered from a rubber fishing vessel," Benito Ramos, chief of the Office of Civil Defense, said on radio station dzBB. "The death toll is now 68."

He said rescuers, including volunteers and troops, continued to scour coastal areas in the country's southeastern seaboard Sunday, where the majority of the 84 still missing were reported.

"We are still hoping that they are still alive," Ramos said.

However, he said fresh rains brought on by a new weather disturbance were hampering search and rescue operations.

No storm

State weather forecasters, however, said it was unlikely to develop into a full-blown storm.

Basyang slammed into the country on Tuesday directly hitting metro Manila as it ran westward from the South China Sea with a ferocity that caught weather forecasters by surprise.

It caused massive power outages nationwide, toppled power lines, uprooted trees and destroyed thousands of homes.

Basyang brushed past the southeastern Chinese island of Hainan and barreled its way into Vietnam on Saturday.

It killed at least two people in China and wrecked several Vietnamese ships off the South China Sea, officials there said.

Earlier, the Coast Guard found two more bodies of fishermen who had been declared missing in the seas of Bataan in Subic, Ozamis.

Lt. Joel Ogarda, Coast Guard Luzon district commander who supervised the retrieval operation, said the recovered bodies were clad in their underwear.

"We saved all the help that we can get, volunteer divers and extra oxygen tanks. We're racing against time because the rubber boats were being pulled by strong currents towards the deeper portion of the ocean," Ogarda said.

He said three divers found the motor unrecovered. Sinking boat FB Godswill II, 48 feet deep below the ocean floor.

Ogarda asked officials of the Quezon provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) to bring in more body bags to Bataan as more bodies were expected to be recovered.

Doctors' team

Henry Rueda, PDCC Quezon coordinator, said the provincial government had sent a medical team to the Island.

The recovery of the two bodies brought to six the death toll involving fishermen who went missing when Typhoon Basyang struck.

PDCC records said 19 members and 21 are still missing when three commercial fishing boats—FB Godswill I, FB Godswill II and FB Jean—caught refuge near Bataan but were battered by strong winds and waves.

An aerial search by a Philippine Air Force rescue helicopter Thursday spotted FB Godswill II some 2 kilometers away from the Island floating upside down. AFP and Ofelia T. Mo Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

A WOMAN hitching her son at the Legazpi Port Elementary School in Legazpi City after the Department of Education suspended classes as a result of Typhoon "Basyang." PONG LUCAS/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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Alcala vows policies, programs won't start without farmers' OK

LUCENA CITY—Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala on Saturday reiterated a pledge to consult farmers and fishermen on all policies and programs of his department.

Alcala made the statement as Quezon farmers, fishermen and environmental protection advocates trooped here with a feast on his first visit to his hometown as a member of President Aquino's official family.

"I want my present status to Quezon farmers and fishers," said Alcala, a two-term congressman of Quezon.

He pointed to an incident where documents for sugar importation were slipped into his desk for his signature in his first days in office.

"I refused to just sign the papers because I wanted to first consult all the affected sectors, the sugar farmers, millers, traders and others," Alcala said, adding "I want to first hear their voices and opinions."

In an earlier interview, the former lawmaker said he would study all agricultural projects and programs being implemented by the department across the country.

He said the DA has been implementing the same projects and programs in all parts of the country.

"It should not be the case. Every region has its own unique agricultural characteristics, its own particular needs," Alcala said.

He vowed to faithfully serve and pursue the interest of Filipino farmers and fishermen as an important partner of Mr. Aquino in his task of rebuilding the nation.

A local chicken group governed three local fish dealers before a "bonello fight" booth of newly harvested vegetables and fruits and fresh seafood from Tayabas Bay shared by Alcala and his hosts inside several tents amid strong rains.

Immediately after Mr. Aquino named Alcala to the top DA post, Quezon farmers, fishermen and environmentalist groups offered prayers of thanks in several Catholic churches. Inquirer Southern Luzon

25 Army trainees get ill; food poisoning suspected

By Chris Ryan-Rex
Inquirer Visayas

URDANETA CITY—Twenty-five military trainees were rushed to the hospital here on Saturday due to suspected food poisoning.

The trainees of the 402nd Infantry Brigade based in this city were weak from severe stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhea when they were brought to the hospital starting on Saturday afternoon, said Dr. Noel Mateo of the Urdaneta District Hospital (UDH).

Mateo said the trainees were believed to have suffered from food poisoning or gastroenteritis but this could not be confirmed until the results in laboratory tests made on the patients were released.

Lt. Jimson Mananghay, the commanding officer of the 402nd IB Training Model, said those who were taken ill were among the trainees who took part in a bloodletting activity on Saturday before they had lunch that consisted of chicken with asparagus (vegetable noodle) that they themselves prepared.

He said afternoon of Saturday, several trainees started to have severe stomach cramps and diarrhea and by 7:00 p.m., 25 out of the 130 trainees were confined at UDH.

Mananghay said many others, who suffered diarrhea, left before after getting first aid.

Mananghay said officials have yet to determine why only 25 got sick considering that all 130 trainees drank the same water and ate the same food for lunch.

The trainees were on the third week of their 12-week military training at the 402nd IB, Mananghay said.

EMPTY
A lone worker wipes the floor at the Tabaco City port after passengers, who decided it was useless to keep hanging around, left the port following an announcement that all sea travel has been suspended at the height of Typhoon "Basyang."

Banned pesticide, other chemicals found in river

DAGUPAN CITY—Traces of endosulfan, a banned pesticide, and other highly toxic chemicals were found in waters of the Galong River in La Union did not kill tons when a massive fish kill occurred on June 24.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Southern Mindanao conducted tests on water samples taken from the river after the fish kill and confirmed the presence of the chemicals.

The report, released on Monday and signed by BFAR regional director Evangelio Campusan, also said it found traces of other agricultural chemicals such as chlorothalonil, a fungicide and diazinon, an organophosphate pesticide. Four water samples taken from the river on the day of the fish kill

Those chemicals are highly toxic to aquatic species, the report said.

But the report did not specify the source of the contamination.

A number of rice farms are found upstream while Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. operated by the family of former agriculture secretary Leon Dinglasan is also operating a banana plantation along the Galong River.

The BFAR said the presence of the chemical substances could have caused the fish kill although other factors lead to the phenomenon.

"Other factors were also noted like sudden changes in weather and low stock level," BFAR assistant regional director Rufino Mris said in a phone interview.

She said test results also showed that there was a decrease in oxygen levels in the river.

Rolando Hernandez, Pelagan village chief, said the findings had reinforced villagers' fear about the use of chemicals finding its way into the Galong River.

The river empties into the sea and similar contamination in the future could also threaten other marine life, she said.

Mris said the proper disposal of farm chemicals should be observed to avoid water contamination.

The June 24 fish kill was the second in Dagupan.

In 2007, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) blamed the Davao Sugar Central Co. Distillery for the massive fish kill that occurred in the Gubling River.

The EMB said the distillery released hot wastewater into the river, which killed nearly a ton of various fish species. *Orlando B. Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

NEWSBRIEFS

ANGELES CITY

Brit, partner slain

A British national and his live-in partner were found dead inside their house in Barangay Balibago here on Friday.

Chief Insp. Lucelito Tan, chief of the Angeles police's Station 4, said the decomposing bodies of James Arthur Porter, 51, and Melissa Wadenberg, 32, were found several hours after they were reported by policemen and village guards to Sto. Maria Subdivision.

Village guards sought police assistance when residents complained about the stench coming from the victims' house. Tan said the suspects could have entered through the unlocked door on the house's second floor, as the front door was locked.

The couple's computer and electronic appliances were missing, he said. The crime happened four days after a 65-year-old Canadian and his 22-year-old Filipino partner were found dead inside their house in Barangay Mining here.

Jun Malig, Inquirer Central Luzon

ISABELA

Reds kill town cop chief

THE POLICE chief of Santo Tomas town was killed while his six companions were wounded on Friday when communist rebels fired at their vehicle on the remote village of Banoja in Reina Mercedes.

Military and police reports said the group, led by Senior Insp. Alfonso Dungca Jr., town police chief, was on its way to Barangay Villacu to investigate the burning of a town road roller when it was ambushed by New People's Army rebels shot them.

Supt. Roberto Rosario, Isabela police spokesperson, said Dungca died in the attack, while SPO2 Rodolfo Mateo, SPO2 Benito Lanuguin, PO3 Rogenio Salata, PO2 Rey Dagmon and PO2 Alex Bulalos were wounded.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAVAO CITY

Malaria outbreak feared

HEALTH WORKERS expressed fear that there could be more unreported cases of malaria in Governor, a rugged, forested village near the border of Bukidnon.

Divina Hilario, health educator and provincial officer of the Department of Health, said doctors are coming to Governor next week to investigate the malaria outbreak that left one person dead in a country that recently announced it is already winning the fight against malaria.

Of 800 people examined by the City Health Office, 160 were positive for malaria, Hilario said.

A subvillage of Barangay Pasonanca, Governor is inaccessible to all types of vehicles.

Sunnex Ibarra Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

DAGUPAN CITY

Gov's dare: Stop 'Last 2'

DAGUPAN CITY—Governor Amado Espino III on Friday challenged police in the province to prove their worth by arresting operators of illegal numbers game "Last Two/digits" and put a stop to their operations.

Last Two is based on daily bets results.

Espino made the challenge after he received reports that operators in the towns of Sta. Maria and Manaoag and in this city and police appear to be not doing anything about it.

A Last Two operator here said legalizing the game was a better option. "We employ a lot of people," said the operator.

Orlando B. Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Davao Sur traffic cop chief axed, too

DIGOS CITY—The provincial chief of the police's Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Davao del Sur was relieved for lowering the arrest of three of his men for extortion.

Senior Supt. Gregorio Wenceslao said Senior Insp. Jimel Hiwatin deputy failed to engage his team.

On Thursday, three of Marcelo's men—PO2 Carlito Alino, PO1 Alfredo Tinsan and PO1 John Lester Llevado—were caught in the act of extorting money from motorists in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. During an entrapment operation by members of the Intelligence Division police intelligence office.

Authorities recovered marked money used in the entrapment operation from the traffic policemen.

Their civilian companion was also taken into custody.

Unnamed said traffic enforcing Hiwatin, he also placed him under investigation "for the lapse of command responsibility."

Criminal charges for direct bribery and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act have already been filed against Alino, Tinsan and Llevado at the provincial prosecutor's office Friday.

Hiwatin posted bail.

The inquest also learned that administrative cases were also filed against them at the police Regional Internal Affairs Service. *Orlando B. Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Fishermen turn over P45M in cocaine

By Joy A. Cobita
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Two fishermen from Sitio Hukbanga town in Eastern Samar turned over to the police bricks of cocaine with an estimated street value of P45 million.

The two fishermen were the latest to turn over cocaine to police authorities in Eastern Visayas countries efforts to recover the drug that was dumped by a foreign vessel off the waters of Eastern Samar in December last year.

The nine bricks of cocaine were "voluntarily surrendered" to the Police Region Last Thursday by Gregorio Gubiliro, 46 of Barangay Hingatan, and Sabyndin Monte, 42 of Barangay Calbayugan, both coastal villages of San Policarpo, some 200 kilometers away from Tacloban City.

Insp. Marcelino Montesa, the chief of police of Policarpo, said in a phone interview Sunday that the fishermen found the bricks of cocaine in the sea last December and hid them hoping to make money out of it.

However, they got scared as the months went by and decided to give it up to the police.

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

2010 Accountancy Week

in coordination with

ACPACI, ACPAE, ACPAPP and GACPA

PICPA

REACHING OUT . . .

We warmest greetings and congratulations to all PICPA officers and members on the occasion of your 2010 Accountancy Week Celebration with the theme "PICPA — Reaching Out".

PICPA, with all its accountant members, is an indispensable partner in nation-building. With its active participation in the major functions of governance, such as in the procurement of goods and services, PICPA serves as a valiant measure against corruption—every Country's anathema to good governance.

Truly my friends, both present challenges as you set sale to convey and the theme and mission of PICPA, for your 2010 Accountancy Week Celebration with the theme "Reaching Out", pride and honor, super-talented professionals, PICPA will undergo in an institution to reckon with.

In this connection, it is my ardent hope that every PICPAn will endeavor to practice what is right and just with vigor, enthusiasm and dedication befitting of the acronym PICPA: P-prescription, I-integrity, C-competence, P-professionalism, A-accountability.

With PICPA, the future of this country will be better!

REYNALDO A. VILLAR
Chairman
Commission on Audit

Warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants as you celebrate Accountancy Week. PICPA is to be commended for its espousal of the theme, PICPA — Reaching Out. This message dramatizes the importance of our certified public accountants and of PICPA in helping to drive the engines of our country's economic growth through sound accountancy practices and accurate financial reporting.

At our country's historic turning point of transformational change, change that has begun to transcend from the highest levels of our new national leadership, it is to continue upon all of us to assume those we can contribute to the call for positive change.

As independent citizens of the Philippines, CPAs have the unique formal accountancy practices can instill and uphold a culture of good governance and transparency across the realms of business and industry. I welcome this encouraging initiative of participation among our certified public accountants and I am confident that it will translate to our flexible contribution to our country's aspiration to be a prime investment destination in Asia.

I offer the PICPA my sincere felicitations during this Accountancy Week and my hopes for its continued success in uniting and inspiring the profession of certified public accountants. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

NICOLAS C. CAPERAL, JR.
Chairman
Professional Regulatory Commission

In behalf of the Board of Accountancy, I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the organizers and the members of the Accountancy Week Celebration of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) to be held on July 18-23, 2010.

Your conference theme "PICPA — Reaching Out" is indeed very appropriate and timely. In this day and age, the world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the New Economy there are higher demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. With barrier-free business and issues of the environment as pillars of globalization, the pace of the change has never been this fast. This current economic development affecting the financial and accounting world calls for an accounting profession that is equally responsive to the needs of the times. As CPAs in the mission—that of being the business world's most trusted advisers, it becomes necessary for all of us to be professionally competent. Moreover, we must continue to practice what is right with competence and dedication, in any arena of morality, independence and integrity. As more elite wave of advancement come our way, we must learn to rise to the task and not at the bottom. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the outmost way. For PICPA to be effective, it must reach out to all stakeholders with active Participation, Innovative Integration, Cooperation, Professionalism and Accountability. The adoption and gathering serve as a good venue for addressing such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful accountancy week celebration!

MARIETTE MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy

July 18 - 24, 2010 is this year's Accountancy Week, pursuant to Proclamation No. 607, that the third week of July every year has been declared for this celebration. I extend my warmest greetings to all Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in the country, most especially those who are members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), the National Organization of CPAs in this country and Accredited Professional Organization (APO) of CPAs by the Professional Regulation Commission.

PICPA's theme for this year 2010-2011 is "PICPA . . . . . Reaching Out", where PICPA stands for: P-Participation, I-Integration, C-Cooperation (Team Work), P-Professionalism, A-Accountability. The whole week celebration is headed by its National President Melvin Chupeco of PICPA and by four (4) national organizations of CPAs, namely: Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI), Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (ACPAE), Association of Certified Public Accountants in Public Practice (ACPAPP), and the three-years Association of Certified Public Accountants (GACPA). The Chapters in the provinces and cities shall have their own activities to complement the week.

With the various activities lined up for the week, coordinated by the PICPA 2010-2011 Accountancy Week Committee, I trust that we shall have a memorable and significant observance to foster our profession. To all CPAs and PICPA . . . . . Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JOSE C. [illegible], JR.
National President
PICPA

The 2010 Accountancy Week Celebration is a fitting display of unshakeable accountants in all matters of taxation, in duty to commerce and industry, public practice, education or government. This is very significant avenue to hone the professional competencies and to take part in sports and social involvement activities which, in the process, pursuing the outstanding professional goals and aspirations, making our accountancy profession more vibrant.

The 2010 ACPACI theme, "Creating Borders", is a reminder to us that CPAs are not confined to the four walls of the accounting profession. We have the strength and the technical competencies to go beyond our borders, to other fields of endeavor or establish and/or grow our own businesses, or even cross our national geographic boundaries and hone our professional practice the countries in the world - because great opportunities abound for the global CPA. Be it China, Middle East, and other ASEAN countries, per aspirations and resiliency, I am confident that we can and we will overcome all challenges that come our way!

On behalf of the PICPA members, officers and directors, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to accountancy Week.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

[signature]
ATTY. MELVIN CHUPECO
2010 National President, ACPACI

In behalf of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (ACPAE), I would like to extend our warmest greetings to all the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) as we celebrate the 2010 Accountancy Week.

This year's theme "PICPA . . . . . Reaching Out" where PICPA stands for Participation, Integration, Cooperation, (Team Work), Professionalism and Accountability aptly encapsulates the activities of PICPA. It is imperative for the needs of our call for positive change in the accountancy profession, PICPA needs what it needs for. And in these testing times, "PICPA" will be the busy one here that will keep PICPA afloat.

On behalf of the ACPAE, I extend our endorsement to ACPAE itself to be a more relevant and reliable organization.

I wish everyone a fruitful Accountancy Week ahead.

Mabuhay! And may God bless us all.

[signature]
ESTRELLA C. DOMPIS
2010 National President, ACPAE

PICPA ..... HATS OFF!!! ... for another year of making the Accountancy Week mark our solidity in the accounting profession.

As we celebrate this year's Accountancy Week, let us join our hands and eloquently express our thoughts and ideas as we adhere with the theme "PICPA ... Reaching Out".

Truly, there is absolutely no doubt that we are headed for reaching out another phase of accomplishments and competence through the scheduled technical matters, social activities and sports events. May this week-long gathering address the challenges and issues of the accounting profession, keep us abreast of new developments and advances in the field and will truly strengthen our unity.

Let us all work as one and have a valuable and significant Accountancy Week!

[signature]
2010 National President, ACPAPP

As we face a new era in the government, allow me to extend my warmest greetings to everyone and keep us continue the tradition of excellence in service as we now change our leadership in the Professional Regulatory Boards.

Let us embark on our new path with enthusiasm and welcome the changes as a continuing pursuit in the betterment in our respective Accounting Boards and in the adoption to the Philippine Financial Reporting Boards.

Our theme for this year, "[illegible] Responding to the call for [illegible]", truly reflects our aspirations as we embrace the new trends and professional challenges of the decade. Let us not forget that change is only meaningful if it is used from one level to and if it is aimed towards improvement and development. In the context of accountancy, we are responsible in good governance by acting as role models in upholding a true sense of accountability and responsibility for safeguarding public funds and resources. Through our works, we can make a difference in ensuring best professionalism among government human resources.

Let us call for a more active participation among members of this organization and among our counterparts in other sectors so that we can make a best difference that is being called for by our new leadership.

May the Almighty continue to provide us the wisdom to know the right path and may we be given the strength of spirit to pursue it diligently.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

[signature]
2010 Licensing National President, GACPA

Welcome fellow PICPAns to our 2010 Accountancy Week Celebration.

I am indeed privileged once again to have the opportunity to be actively involved in PICPA activities, as the Chair of the 2010 Accountancy Week Celebration.

We celebrate this PICPA annual activity at this critical time we are still in the throes of and uncertainty brink of our entry for also within PICPA being valuable celebrant moments to re-witness as a professional association. This is the time, therefore, that we are called upon to meet the challenge in creating transparency and service-oriented our tasks as well as further build efficiency and effectiveness in the profession. Activities must appropriate to this year's theme "PICPA - REACHING OUT".

Let us, therefore, let us persevere in enhancing our professional excellence while maintaining our principles and integrity-based approach. Let us take the lead role in further re-engineering PICPA and the Accountancy profession and be the catalyst of change. Let us move forward and work towards bond and help reach our vision to firm and grandeur.

Thank you for the overwhelming support to our Association.

Mabuhay ang CPA professions! Mabuhay ang National Organization! Mabuhay ang PICPA! Mabuhay maging kaisa ka!

[signature]
JAIME P. RAMAS
Chair
2010-2011 Accountancy Week Committee

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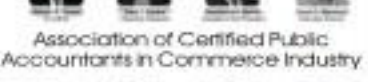

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

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ACPAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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2010 ACCOUNTANCY WEEK PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

For more information, please call PICPA at tel. nos. 7235481/723-0891 to 93

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Too many Abads in gov't?

From page A1

Abads having influential posts in the new administration of President Aquino.

"It is really unconscionable seeing one family getting several important positions in government," said Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño.

Florencio Abad Jr., who served as campaign manager of Mr. Aquino's libertarian party, is the budget secretary.

Abad's daughter Julia, who served as Mr. Aquino's chief of staff in the Senate, is the Presidential Management Staff head, while his son Luis is the chief of staff of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Abad's wife Dinnalina, a representative of Batanes, is opposed to because the vice chair of the appropriations committee of the House of Representatives.

The Cabinet list likewise, the country's northernmost province which has only 16,554 registered voters, less than 1 percent of the country's total number of registered voters.

A representative belonging to Lakas-Kampi-CMD, who agreed to comment on condition that he not be named, was worried about one family taking control of the government's budget.

The House appropriations committee sets the General Appropriations Act, the budget secretary disburses the funds (including pork barrel funds), the PMS [sic] disposes the President's pork barrel, and the COA has the say of the Finance secretary, he said.

Colmenares expressed hope that Mr. Aquino would broaden further his field of candidates because there were other individuals who could do the job as well or even better.

"But there are too many Abads! But in fairness, they are in different offices," said Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza.

Bagao said the appointing power was different from the appointees and he might not be considered suspicious.

She said Mr. Aquino's decision to leave the disbursement and administration of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) under Corazon Soliman, who was a former DSWD head in 2005 would make its be "very powerful."

"I hope it's just a temporary situation or else, President Aquino will be kept in the dark about what's happening around him," Bagao said.

She said that "if others get to know about this, then transparency is compromised and influence-peddling will not be far behind."

Abad dismissed claims that his secretary had "ripped off" the powerful in the Aquino administration.

"Too much power? Pare are essentially staffs of principals—PMS head of the President and COS of DOF. The other one is a security [sic] of the Press Sec, who twice before resigned his Cabinet seat for agreeing to form secretary and later as ombudsman-designate," he said.

Abad said all three appointees were practically vetted ahead of time by the principals.

"The only real power is the representative, but she comes due to her constituents and is accountable to them," Abad said.

"Please note that she won't [even] running for reelection in 2013 after PGMA. [then President Macapagal-Arroyo] is limited to give the province any assistance through her for twice and serving the impeachment complaint against her," he said.

The budget secretary said his wife "didn't want the position to continue to suffer."

FLORENCIO ABAD: Budget secretary

REP. HENEDINA ABAD: Public Works appropriations committee vice-chair

JULIA ABAD: Presidential Management Staff chief

His wife urged to run in 2010 when Ms Arroyo was on her way out and no longer in a position to influence the budget in the province, Abad said.

"And the people recognized her sacrifice by electing her despite massive vote buying by her [former] husband [opponent]," he said.

Julia defended her family. "For now, I think our qualifications will have to speak for themselves. We will leave it to the public to judge us by our performance in government later on," she said.

Juana Change

Hanning Abad used his daughter to the Cabinet list dismissed not only lawmakers but also an Aquino campaign volunteer.

May Rosell, aka Juana Change, a political satirist, said early this month that the Aquino administration needed new faces instead of recycled ones. With a report from Christine Y. Esguerra

Harnessing people power in fight against corruption

From page A1

he implemented because of the security situation.

Budget groups in India often analyzed public spending at the state level. One of them, Dhan Foundation, analyzed the 2005 budget in Tamil Nadu and found upon the request of the government. The report recommended doing away with budget secrecy, circulating vital documents before its presentation, and publishing audit data.

The Center for Budget and Policy Studies in Bangalore studied education expenditures at the district level in Karnataka state. Conducted with the cooperation of Karnataka's Department of Education, the project received as a model for how civil society groups could work with the government without compromising their independence.

In Indonesia, the Bandung Institute of Governance Studies (IGSK) tracked the budget needs of women. Within the archipelago, around 44 million families did not own their houses, so that housing the post was not gender neutral. In general, slum areas had more women than men. IGSK then analyzed the impact of housing policy and budgets on the poor in the slums.

The Center for Budget and Governance Accountability in New Delhi holds workshops attended by citizens on how to participate in formulating the budget. For its part, the NGO PROOF holds a Mini Democratic Assembly more than 100 have been conducted in various parts of Bangalore—to present the performance data of the municipal corporation.

Community-driven don't

Kalahi-CIDSS is a prime antipoverty program of the national government in the Philippines. It is supported by the World Bank. Under this program, the barangays choose infrastructure projects to address their basic needs. They prepare budgets and proposals, and the line in the municipality wins the funding. Some 70 percent, mentioned, for all the financial statements are passed on the village bulletin board and is posted in the assembly.

But even Pantawid Watch insists civil society organizations can't do the monitoring mentioned. It deploys observers, armed with checklists, to official bidding sessions. When anomalies are discovered, they are brought up to the superiors of erring agencies. Those who participated reported in civil society watchdogs.

Social audits involve the community in scrutinizing public projects and the officials actually spent on them. The details of contracts are read during public hearings so they can compare official sums with the reality on the ground.

A leading exponent of the mechanism is the NGO called MKSS of Rajasthan, India. Another group, Parivartan has received 68 public works in Madhavni Delhi via hearings, and it has found that many roads exist only on paper. PROOF in Bangalore has persuaded the city government to release quarterly public statements on financial performance. These statements contain revenue-and-expenditure data for original budget estimates.

In the Philippines, the NGO Concerned Citizens of Arts for Good Government monitors actual construction projects. Financial details are read aloud on its radio program.

Citizen ombudsmen

Corruption can be institutionalized among local officials, as in the case of Japan. The citizens in Hamura [Tokyo] in the city of Sendai was created to reaction to bribe taking by local government politicians. The council launched a direct attack on Japan's construction industry, which has long exerted a powerful influence on politics. Such companies were on bid rigging scandals and donated millions of dollars to politicians' campaign chests.

Founded by lawyers in Sendai, the Citizen Ombudsmen Liaison Council is more active 47 prefectures. It monitors corruption by auditing local politicians' expense reports. The ombudsmen conduct their investigation through an information request program. They can ask for all documents, e.g., expenses and inspections accounts, of each local government. The information is also sent to the national liaison conference. That way, they can compare expenses and create a national database.

Lifestyle checks

Philippine law requires all public officials to file a statement of assets and liabilities every year. If the assets are way above what can be accounted for by salaries, savings from corporate income, marriage, or inheritance, that they have likely come from crooked sources.

Assessment include unexplained bank deposits, "manifestly excessive expenditures," construction displays of wealth, frequent travel abroad, and the like. Agents conduct lifestyle checks on officials by verifying circumstances of assets and liabilities. They conduct office and house visits.

Monitoring performance

Government which is a 10-point initiative to monitor the progress of public agencies. Volunteers deployed to the projects also filled out the matrix of monitoring tool.

The "variance" was the deviation between the planned and actual results. The variance emerged during the implementation of quantity (e.g., 45,000 textbooks were delivered instead of 50,000), quality (the highway was made of asphalt rather than the promised concrete), cost (the bridge was overshot by 20 percent), or time (the road projects were delayed by six weeks).

Because the NGO Link Satta has organized citizens to monitor fund banks, drawing at the pump has effectively stopped in all the 1,500 parched districts of Andhra Pradesh. India in many cities, the personnel of the engineering and accounts offices have been forced to submit the bribes they collected.

Tracking textbooks

This was in response to textbook corruption and the resulting shortages in the Philippines. In 2000, the cost was five public schools children sharing a single textbook; it is now 1:1.

Civil society organizations monitored delivery and payment of the printing, binding and packaging of the textbooks in the warehouses. The groups then monitored the deliveries to-site. They looked into the condition of the delivered textbooks and the accuracy of the book counts.

Children's road survey

In such public works corruption, children building dwellings were sent to inspect the twenty kilometers. April 12 to 14 years old, they were first briefed on the need to drain water from the roads to maintain their quality.

The brochures explained the various critical road design elements, the efficacy of the drainage system, impediments to pedestrian and road safety, and the quality of the riding surface.

The children were then sent to inspect 300 road segments and told to fill out their checklists. Some of the indicators were: presence of drains, presence of the surface, whether the footpath was covered with slabs, number of potholes and cracked.

Investigative reports

The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) specializes in in-depth reports, often on corruption. It has published over a hundred books and dozens of articles in major Philippine dailies and magazines.

The reports on graft and influence-peddling to high places have drawn the political heat, some. In many cases, those accused have framed the government to act. The PCIJ's reports go beyond high-profile corruption cases. They also look into ensembled corrupt practices in key departments in branches of government.

Citizens charters

Indian civic groups like Praja and Lok Satta guide residents in setting a citizens charter for their municipalities. The charter is a contract between citizens and the local government. After much discussion and revision, the people then present the charter to the officials. They promise the bureaucrats to approve the charter. Once ratified, the officials assume responsibility to monitor how the public services comply with the charter's standards. The groups hold regular meetings with the municipal corporations.

Integrity Pacts

This project of Transparency International Nepal (TIN) evolves from the Washington region. Its integrity pact is a contract or agreement from the local government to adopt a package of measures put forward by TIN.

Public officials and employees pledge to implement the "integrity pact" in bidding-taking, simple and transparent decision-making, realistic construction budgets, openness and responsiveness to complaints by citizens. Procurement procedures and guidelines provide clear criteria for the technical evaluation of the bids and for the redress of grievances is installed. A monitoring committee is set up, including a representative of TIN.

Report cards

Initiated by the Public Affairs Center in Bangalore and now replicated around the world, report cards are surveys on social services that impact on the poor. This is a chance for the people to grade the agencies providing those services. It helps uncover problem areas in service delivery.

The dimensions probed include access to the service, quality, affordability, willingness to pay, coping mechanisms, and the efficacy of the redressing adequacy of supplies, and, ultimately, user satisfaction. The report cards have been run for entire nations and states. They have been conducted on specific development projects, as in the case of Sri Lanka's Gram Darsiya project.

Citizen juries

Residents in Andhra Pradesh are selected to study an issue that will greatly affect their community. They are fed much information on the topic.

They listen to talks, watch videos, and study the readings. They interrogate the specialists on the subject and deliberate on it in mini-juries.

Finally, they render their verdict on the issue to the community, the authorities, and the media.

Leveraging information

The Right to Information Act of Goa, India, guarantees that any citizen can apply in writing for "any information relating to the affairs of the state or any local authorities." Once the application is received, Agencies have 30 days to furnish or refuse the information.

Citizens can photocopy certain files pertaining to government transactions. The law also provides a procedure for appealing adverse responses that have been denied.

Surveys on corruption

Social Weather Stations in the Philippines, Transparency International Malaysia (TIM) and the Center for Social Development in Cambodia have run national surveys on corruption.

The polls get data on people's first-hand experiences with fraud and identify which agencies are most prone to it. They quantify the frequency of bribery in relation to paying taxes, getting licenses and permits, transacting business with government, and other activities from the government. The survey obtains data on the percentages paid to get government contracts.

News scan database

Transparency International Bangladesh compiles news articles about corruption cases and converts them into a comprehensive report. The database is available on its website.

It is a valuable research tool for investigative work in anti-crime tracking. The database is useful for follow-up research, for updates on ongoing corruption cases, and for keeping government officials on their toes. Stories that date many in the publication can be easily "archived."

SMS

Another mechanism taken advantage of the popularity of SMS or text messages in the Philippines to combat graft and corruption. Citizens can send complaints by text messages to the hotlines of the Office of the Ombudsman. When the names of the same officials keep appearing on the database, the claims are investigated.

Websites as weapons

Displaying the "creativity found in many hi-tech innovations, this category is spanning many mechanisms.

Brazil's Online Procedures Enhancement for Civil Applications (Open) is a website that shows the status of applications made to the 34 agencies most vulnerable to corruption.

It records "the contents of the application, approval time of the application, the number of visits to the application, the number of officials assigned to the applications, and their contact numbers." The electronic trail easily suppresses the impulse to commit fraud.

The impact of the Brazil's Open system is supported by research presented in December 2003 by a team from Korea University. Of those polled, 34 percent replied that the Open system cut processing time, 66 percent said that application forms were easier, and 62 percent cited improved accuracy of applications.

E-procurement

Also pioneered by South Korea is e-procurement through the Korea Online Bidding System (e-KOS). The law requires more than 20,000 public organizations to list an 6e06 their bidding information.

The system prequalifies suppliers and manufacturers product information. The public can compare the prices offered by different suppliers. Private bidders can't collude with each other because all the bids are disclosed online. For the same reason, government procurement officers can't delay the placing of orders.

In India, such e-ses (computerized kiosk) can handle more than 1500 services, ranging from getting birth certificates, to paying examination fees, to buying tickets to cultural events.

Utility areas served by the e-ses are many, such as electricity, municipal corporations, transport, hospitals, water supply and railways. By making transactions digital, the government gets to eliminate layers of middlemen, who exercise discretion. Putting data on the public domain also increases transparency and makes agencies more accountable.

In the Philippines, the Department of Budget and Management posted on its website the names of blacklisted contractors. Although the site—by having visitors to click on the blacklist—the more even can go to seven pages. It showed which companies have had their licenses suspended, revoked or denied.

Pork barrel

Corruption can flow from the pork barrel of legislators. In the rural sector, Congress members can reward the areas that supported them with infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges. This sum of spending threatens the objectives laid out in development plans.

Shady legislators can collude with the local public works official, cook of his/her powers. The middleman is usually one of the rain contractors. The bad eggs among the legislators and public works officials, in turn, get a cut of the deal.

Hence, another website by the Philippine civil society alliance Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) is a website that shows the status of applications made to the 34 agencies most vulnerable to corruption.

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More Sports on A29-A31

Late SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delos Reyes

Gilas-RP quintet nips Taiwan nationals in OT

By June Navarro

HSINCHUANG, TAIWAN—Marvin Douthit provided the key buckets as the reeling Smart Gilas Pilipinas five scraped past Chinese Taipei in overtime, 96-95, last night in the 32nd William Jones Cup International Tournament.

Douthit scored six of the 10 Gilas team's last seven points in the extra period as the Filipinos finished the host country's homecourt edge and the deplorable officiating at the Hsinchuang Gymnasium here.

The 6'8" import's rambidan for national duration finished with 22 points and grabbed 22 rebounds, eight of them on the offensive end.

Chris Tiu and Jeric Teng also pulled off two crucial steps to seal the country's third victory in four games.

Powering a 95-93 edge, Tiu stole off a driving Lee Hsueh-lin, then split his two throws as Taipei resorted to a quick foul.

The Taiwanese set up a desperation play but Chih-hsiang Lo's last-second, fleeing, flat-out quick guard into another miscue as the final buzzer sounded.

Smart Gilas coach Tubby Trocona was pleased with the outcome, although he blasted the officiating.

"The first time coach was particularly incensed when Douthit was slapped a sentential foul for talking to Cheng Jen-wei after a rebound play with 25.59 to go left.

Cheng was later awarded two shots after Jolo had possession.

"This is the worst officiating in my 22 years as a basketball coach," said Trocona.

"The referee wasn't there. He came from nowhere and didn't even hear what Marcio said. He tried to decide the game," added Trocona.

Taiwanese coach Cheng Hsueh-lin questioned the referees on his team's botched disqualification play after Cadiz stripped the ball away from Lee in the dying seconds.

Cheng claimed that Cadiz traveled, but game officials ignored him.

"It was a good game and we deserved to win," said Trocona, whose boys will face the Japanese national team today.

The bully 6-foot-10 Douthit's tip-in in the last minutes of regulation almost sealed the win for the Filipinos, but Ting-Chun-sun dribbled a three-pointer in the waning seconds to force the extension at 88-all.

"It's probably his (Douthit) career high," said Trocona. "He played great but I also think we have a lot of players who also contributed and made this win possible."

Mac Baracael's free throws and a three-pointer by Chris Lutz gave Smart Gilas an 89-82 lead, before Chinese Taipei scored six straight points on the inventions of Chen Shun-hsun.

BIG GAME RP boss Jones Marcio Chouliz.

DERBY ACE Scottie op Ruin or Shine's Sol Mercado (middle) when it matters the most to book a semifinal sisters.

Derby Ace, Alaska finalize semis cast

By Marang R. Castillo

IMPORTS Shannon Simpson and Tony Mitchum delivered last night as Alaska and Derby Ace prevailed in successive Game 5s to complete the Final Four cast in the PBA Honda Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Alaska Aces topped the Barangay Ginebra San Miguel, 95-91, after Simpson had in the go-ahead basket with five seconds left on the clock to overtime downed the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters in overtime, 100-108, behind a 49-point job by Mitchum.

Simpson made up his own second-errors as the Gin Kings edged out a four-point Alaska lead in a three-second span that had the pro Cherdon erased of more than 11,000 fans in the first.

In entering what coach Tim Cone said was a "must even (playoff) series," the Aces ended a four-of-seven semifinal series with elimination round superiority. Talk 'N Text meeting Mahindra (the at the Big Dome in Cubao).

"You can't find a series this tight," Cone later said. "It's tough that sometimes have to lose this game and this series. My heart goes out to them (Gin Kings). I don't think you could have a more even series."

Walters displayed his wide offensive arsenal by scoring in twin digits in each of the four quarters of regulation before brandishing the other facets of his game in overtime.

"He came to us at the right place at the right time," Derby Ace coach Jason Gregorio said. "This is just his third day in the country and what we saw out there tonight was just the tip of the iceberg, as far as his real, true are concerned.

"We had to new team on the with Tony coming away," added Gregorio.

Derby Ace, which remains on course to sweeping both PBA awards slotted for the year, next clashes with a well-rested San Miguel Beer crew in the other best-of-seven semifinal series this Wednesday.

Simpson finished with 24 points and 22 rebounds, but he almost played goat when he accidentally tapped in a late-lay Dalhousie-bound miss that allowed Giordino with 86-99 with 21.8 seconds left.

Simpson later threw a careless inbounds pass that was intercepted at midcourt by Jio Mitink, who found Hotchkiss for a triple that ushered the Kings to a 91-86 lead, three-fourths to 28.5 seconds.

"Yeah, it happens," Cone said of Simpson's "town goof" that actually gave the Kings the chance to steal the game after rallying, 84-90, with 2:14 left on an 14 freeze triple.

Toronto led the Aces with 25 points and five assists, while Willie Miller contributed 19 points and Mitink chipped in 15 for the Kings.

Pilipo Mahinay couldn't finish off the Elasto Painters offensively in overtime, he turned to applying defense and his teammates do the scoring.

James Yap made all six free throws in that stretch to help put Rain or Shine away.

Regulation ended at 90-all after Ild Mercado sunk one of two free throws off Mike Cavalerio with 37.7 seconds left, then missed a long jumper as the buzzer.

Ball threats put the Gamedan on the board first in the extension after getting a rare assist from Pinahuro, who rattled folded a Mercado layup on the other end.

After Roger Yap scored on a drive, Walters picked up a charging foul on Ryan Arana, resulting in the first pair of James Yap free throws that made it 94-90, with barely two minutes gone in overtime.

And that proved enough buffer for the Gamedan, who were threatened but a 148-102 on two Gabriel Norwood free throws, before James Yap put the game to bed with two more charities in the final 18.1 ticks off a duty foul by Arana.

It was a perfect ending to a well-fought series, and Gregorio heaped praises on his conquered foes for a job well done.

Unification cycling tryouts under way

By Cedrik P. Topia

THE LEADERSHIP dispute in cycling takes a backseat when the country's top riders depart now to the Asian Games in the Rizal Unification Race National Qualifying event scrabbling today at the Autodrome Intramuros in Quezon City.

The selection process starts with the men's and women's qualifying races for Robbi and Pedro Race today at the velodrome. The road men's individual time trials and massed start race will be held in Subic Bay on July 23 and 24.

Also to be decided are 80 slots in the sprint, 1-km individual time trial, 4-km individual pursuit, Olympic sprint and team pursuit.

The downhill and cross country events for mountain bike are scheduled at the Subic Bayanihan on July 23.

Two of the country's top cyclists and Southeast Asian Gold medalists Victor Espiritu and Allie Catalan, however, are expected by skipping the event.

Espiritu has decided to try his luck in coaching, while Catalan is undergoing training with the Philippine Army.

Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino of PhilCycling and Arnold Tolentino of Integrated Cycling have agreed to hold the event apart on the prodding of a mediation group created by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The technical committee for the tryouts will come from both Tolentino and Tolentino's groups, according to Mayong Marcelino, a member of the rumble-ating group.

The leadership dispute's backlash in cycling was felt most in last year's Southeast Asian Games in Laos, where Marlon Bribil was pulled out by officials after her 11 teammates failed to get UCI licenses.

Except for Bribil, who had a UCI license, the rest of the Filipino cyclists in the SEA Games were not part of Tolentino's group, which is recognized by cycling's international governing body.

TOLENTINO

SPORTS SCIENCE Pilipino Philippines GM Ronnie Caliwasan (left) and LAMP director Rod Olondriz discuss reach an agreement that makes Philippine state backer for the college Sports Science Institutes. The first crop are Basketball Training and Conditioning to schedule on July 24 at the Meetropolitan Club in Bataan, Makati. Living deadline is July 21.

Careline-RP bows out

CARELINE-PHILIPINAS bowed to Thailand, 87-77, in a game marred by a controversial decision by the organizers of the Asean School Games allowing the Thais to play despite going into the match with the wrong uniform yesterday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Thais, who still sent the Philippines to the finals for the gold medal, arrived at the gymnasium with a wrong uniform, prompting Careline-Pilipinas officials to call the attention of tournament officials.

But instead of handing the person and disqualifying the Thais from playing, league officials let the Thais Malaysian uniforms and allowed them to play.

Disappointed, the RP team, hailed by Ivor Ribera and former PBL dunk Dimitrije Ilic filed a protest, but tournament officials said they did not violate any rules.

Led by Emiza Jose and Tess Bautista, who contributed 24 and 21 points, 16 rebounds and four assists, the Nationals rallied from a 36-point deficit (73-37) in the third period, cutting the lead to as low as seven but didn't have enough gas to complete the comeback.

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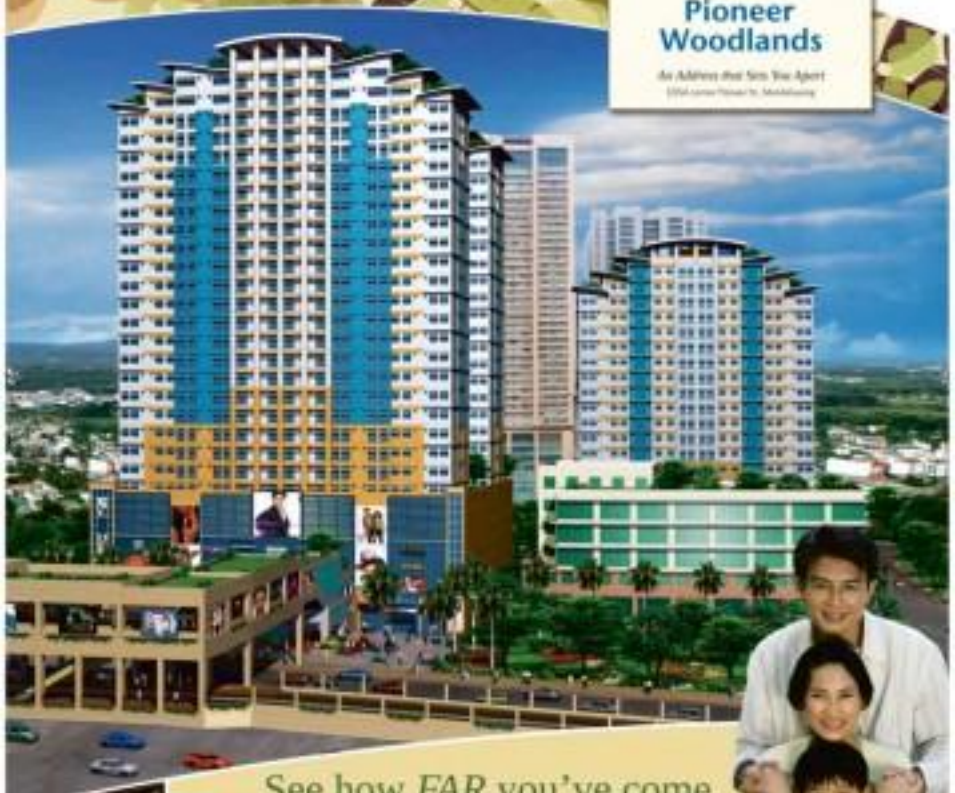

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DID YOU KNOW

MARIA Orosa Street in Ermita, Manila, was named after a home economist who was an expert in food preservation. The street used to be known as Dos Hermanas.

Cpt/Lt. Ranulfo Jayme Fenzeli

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Psychologist to testify for Halili's camp

By DJ Yap

THE CAMP of sexy actress Katrina Halili will call to the stand a psychologist from the National Bureau of Investigation who examined her after videos of her sexual encounters with former celebrity doctor Hayden Kho Jr. had spread on the Internet.

Halili's lawyer, Raymond Palad, said the testimony of the psychologist would help establish the emotional stress the actress had suffered as a result of the sex videos and also to prove that she was of sound mind.

Palad said he would present his next witness on July 26 before Judge Rodolfo Bonifacio of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 159 who was hearing the case.

Psychological effect

"We want to show the psychological effect the sex videos had on Katrina," he told the inquirer.

Halili had accused Kho of violating Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act when he allegedly uploaded on the Internet videos of the two of them having sex which, according to the actress, had allegedly been taken without her knowledge and consent.

In September, Kho was suspended for one year by the Philippine Medical Association "for conduct offensive to the profession."

He is also facing a malpractice suit which was likewise filed by Halili. This is on top of the sexual violence charge dropped against him by the NBI for videotaping his intimate encounters with the actress.

The case is still pending before the Department of Justice.

LITTLE DRUM(MER) BOYS
Two boys have fun with empty oil drums at Barangay Wawa in Rosario, Cavite. JOEY ARIZA

Alleged hospital thief dies after mauling

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 40-YEAR-OLD man who was reportedly caught stealing from a patient confined at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) on Taft Avenue, Manila, died minutes after he was beaten up by an angry mob yesterday morning.

Richard Amparin expired as he was being treated at the hospital emergency room for bruises and contusions.

PGH Jay Sarmiento of the Manila Police District homicide section said that before Amparin died, hospital workers beat him up after one of them caught him stealing from a patient in one of the wards at around 6 a.m.

Caught red-handed

Rhoda Benito, 33, who was looking after a patient confined in Ward 148, sought the help of other watchers when she caught Amparin who was turned over to PGH security guards.

Sarmo said the guards interrogated Amparin in the emergency room for a medical checkup where they found several of his injuries treated.

"He (Amparin) had several bruises on the face and one on his forearm," the case investigator pointed out.

Sarmo added that while Amparin was being examined by doctors at the emergency room, he suddenly collapsed and died.

The case investigator asked the PGH security office to submit an incident report on Amparin's arrest while his body was brought to the morgue for autopsy.

Homicide investigators said they were conducting follow-up operations to identify the persons involved in the mauling and killing of Amparin.

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River needs dredging

The river known as Angalian Bridge at Libis is needed to be dredged. The silted river already might lead to flooding in case of a heavy downpour.

Jose Lee, Police Quezon City

Fix lamp post, please

The alley between Rizal-gang and Ipakling Streets here in Malanday, Quezon City, is very dark because of a burned lamp post. This makes residents vulnerable to criminals waiting to strike. Please do something about this. Many thanks.

Joel AT, Quezon City

Residents feel left out

I would like to call the attention of Mayor Aguilar and former Congresswoman Cynthia Villar. Please fix our dilapidated street, especially the middle of Manoloa Street in Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas, between Electron and Luna Streets. Only the two end portions of the street were asphalted.

Czarh Paul, 22, Las Piñas City

Traffic nightmare

Attention, Manila City Hall officials. Traffic in Plaza Lawton Roxas near Binondo and Juan Luna has become a daily nightmare because people's drivers load and unload passengers in the middle of the street. There are a lot of enforcers but they do not do anything and probably even collect money from motorists. There are also plenty of newsboys who pretend to sell stuff to drivers but in reality they act as collectors for corrupt enforcers and policemen.

Danic XI, Manila

Are cops exempt from registration rules?

There are many motorcycles which are owned by policemen that do not have registration stickers. Are they exempted from the law?

Gaspar Fidelino, 63, Malabon City

For vendors' use only

I thought sidewalks were for people. Please check the sidewalks in Navotas-Bonifacio Bayan. They are full of vendors who are probably being protected by Barangay or MMDA. It is annoying to walk on the sidewalks.

Inez, 25, Navotas

Busted escalator

I visited you last year about an escalator that was not working at Cubao's corner of Aurora. The escalator now works but only the side that goes down. The other (still down) works—the part which goes up. This has been a problem for quite some time, making things quite inconvenient for the elderly. Who should we turn to to have the escalator fixed?

Aurora 40, Las Piñas

Everyday hassle on Buclaran Road

MMDA should do something about Buclaran Road. Vendors are not the only problems. There are also the jeepneys that turn the thoroughfare into a terminal while waiting for passengers. LRT-bound jeepneys do not head for the LRT. They turn at the nearest corner and passengers are forced to go down and walk through floodwaters or garbage to reach the LRT station. The jeepney drivers say they are just trying to avoid entanglements. It's quite a hassle to go through Buclaran every morning.

Jhoss, 31, Pateros-City

Long wait for motorists

Is MMDA the one programming the traffic light at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Quirino Avenue? If you're coming from Quirino, the light turns red! Much too quickly which results in a longer queue for vehicles on the Roxas-neighbors.

Lt. Gil. Pasc. Manila

Enforcers lack initiative

Traffic enforcers on C. Rodriguez St. Antipas always wait for each hour before they do something to put in order the flow of traffic. Why do they have to wait until things get worse before they fix it?

Jovann Ilao, 32, Quezon City

TOO MANY PEDICABS IN MANILA

Jennifer Bayron, 19, of Manila writes, "There are too many pedicabs, some even motorized, in Manila. The drivers' lack of discipline and the inability (or reluctance) of Manila City Hall to control them have resulted in a disorderly and ugly city. Allowing our fellowmen to earn a decent living does not have to mean we should sacrifice the rights of the majority to enjoy order in the city streets. We hope they can have a terminal of some sort instead of being allowed to litter anywhere they prefer."

NPD cops best in crowd control

By Mike Navalat

THE NORTHERN Police District (NPD) topped the annual crowd control competition organized by the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) on Saturday, part of anti-terrorism preparations against power actions being planned in connection with President Aquino's first State of the Nation Address (Sona) next week.

Composed of police stations from the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, the NPD bested the other police districts in Metro Manila, including the Regional Public Safety Battalion. The winning district displayed its skill in crowd control and in implementing strategies when dealing with different scenarios, NCRPO chief Director Roberto Rosales said.

Rosales pointed out that the NCRPO's yearly civil disturbance management (CDM) competition may usually hold a week before the President's Sona to showcase the Philippine National Police's crowd control capabilities.

"With their honing (professional) skills and knowledge in CDM operations, the best-trained is meant to highlight [police] rules and procedures in respecting human rights," Rosales said during the awarding ceremony held at Rizal Park in Manila.

The Quezon City Police District placed second followed by the Manila Police District. Both police districts usually come into contact with protester more often because several major government offices, including Malacañang, are located in their areas.

Rosales, meanwhile, said he would hold a dialogue with rally organizers on July 21 regarding security measures the police would be taking for Mr. Aquino's Sona.

NOTHING BUT NET

A man tries his luck at casting fish in the swollen Tumana River in Marikina City.

QC eyes vacant lots as backyard farms

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE QUEZON CITY government will use vacant lots to promote backyard farming as part of its measures to provide food to poor residents.

In a statement, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte said her office, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, would implement a backyard gardening program in the city to create additional livelihood opportunities.

She added that she had already signed a memorandum of agreement with Agriculture Undersecretary Tomasulo Bastoy on the program that would "encourage the transformation of vacant lots into food sources."

According to Belmonte, the city government recently received boxes of assorted vegetable seeds for distribution to different barangays to kick-off the project.

The government will tap retirees, senior citizens, students and out-of-school-youth to participate in the conversion of the empty lots into vegetable gardens, she said.

She added that the backyard gardening project would benefit the city's poor residents.

The vegetables would be harvested by pre-determined beneficiaries and would be sold with the help of private and non-government organizations.

"Various sectors will be asked to participate in the monitoring of the produces," Belmonte said.

Marikina offers free A(H1N1) shots

By Beverly T. Hatchitan

THE MARIKINA City government is offering free A(H1N1) shots to residents and health workers to prevent the spread of the communicable disease.

In a statement, the city health office urged residents to avail themselves of the free A(H1N1) vaccine in barangay health centers as a preventive measure.

City health officer Dr. Alberto Herrera said they had already obtained 600 vials of the A(H1N1) vaccine allocated by the Department of Health for pregnant women and children aged six months to three years.

Herrera said that 190 frontline health workers had also been vaccinated. In addition, they attended seminars on the disease to help them deal with A(H1N1) cases.

Preventive measures

The measures, Herrera said, were aimed at preventing the possible entry and spread of the disease in the city following the recent reported resurgence of the A(H1N1) virus in Davao City.

"We should be constantly on guard against the disease which often emerges during the rainy season. Vigilance plus adopting preventive approaches are critical," the health officer added.

Only recently, health officials said in Davao that residents were found positive for the A(H1N1) virus.

However, all have recovered from the disease with none of them requiring hospital confinement although their movements were restricted to prevent them from spreading the virus to other people.

RANGE IN BALLS

Golf balls are sold outside a golf course in Intramuros, Manila. The balls, which went beyond the golf course range, were collected by enterprising individuals.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

World celebrates as Mandela turns 92

PHOTOBOMB: as the closing of the 2010 World Cup on July 11

JOHANNESBURG—Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, turns 92 years old on Sunday as the world celebrates the first international day in his honor.

Global leaders and ordinary people in South Africa and abroad have committed to devoting 67 minutes of their time to community service, to mark the number of years Mandela spent in politics.

His birthday was in 2009 recognized by the United Nations as "Nelson Mandela International Day" and will be celebrated across the world.

The increasingly frail leader is spending the day with family at his home, north of Johannesburg.

Neighbors in the plush suburb of Houghton are milling outside **the high-pressure walls of Mandela's** home, hoping to catch a glimpse of the iconic leader.

"I have been here since 8 a.m. Maybe I might be lucky and see him," said Jessy Maureen Indaleng a 9 happy Birthday Madiba" sign.

Children with hand-made birthday cards and flowers were standing with their parents outside the gate, amid tight security, waiting to hand over their birthday messages to family members.

"We expect more people to arrive during the day. Unfortunately we are not allowed in, but we can't chase them away," said a police officer stationed outside the house.

"The family has asked for privacy" said the officer.

Local politicians rushed in wishing the anti-apartheid icon well as his birthday, with international leaders hailing his contribution to global politics and the fight for human rights.

"President Mandela has given 67 years of his life, now what we all could do is try to use 67 minutes of our lives, and change the world for the better," said Sheila Watkinet, former president of Finland.

Alcoholic is a member of The Elders, an independent group of eminent global leaders formed by Mandela in 2009.

Mandela was jailed for 27 years by the country's white minority government for making apartheid rule.

On his release in 1990, he led negotiations with apartheid rulers, a process that culminated in his election as the country's first black president in 1994.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described Mandela as a hero to people of all backgrounds.

"His story is filled with an amazing strength and integrity of spirit. There is no one more deserving of this unprecedented, of international recognition," said Clinton. AFP

Gulf oil well cap continues to hold

OFFICIALS on Saturday extended of a test of the cap on BP's Macondo well for another 24 hours, after two days of pressure showed no signs of damage in the 13,000-foot-deep hole in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We continue to see success in the temporary halt of oil from the hole," said Thad W. Allen, the retired Coast Guard admiral who commands the spill response and made the decision to extend the test.

The test began on Thursday with the closing of valves on a new, tighter-sealing cap atop the well. Officials had said that the test would probably not last longer than 18 hours, but Allen's decision means that the test will continue through Sunday afternoon.

With the valves closed, oil has stopped gushing into the gulf for the first time since the disaster began with the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig on April 20.

"We're very encouraged at this point," said Kent Wells, a senior vice president of BP. He said that any decisions to end the test would be made by Allen.

"The longer the test goes, the more confidence we have in it," Wells said. "But we don't want to jump ahead of the process we've laid out. Admiral Allen is the ultimate decision maker."

Two rounds that had been scattering oil through pipes at the well head are on standby, Wells said, and a third, the Discoverer Enterprise, could be brought in quickly with a device to funnel oil from the top of the cap.

With three containment systems working, Wells said, "we could very well be collecting all the flow at that point." The flow rate is estimated at 35,000 to 60,000 barrels of oil per day.

But in reopening the well, engineers would have to let oil gush into the water for a while short time to reduce pressure as the containment system started.

Whatever decisions are made after the test, officials say work on a relief well would continue. It is considered the ultimate solution because it would permanently plug the runaway well.

Wells said pressure in the well was still slowly rising, which he said was a good sign. Temperature readings showed that the well had cooled off. If oil was still flowing out through a leak, temperatures would be expected to be higher.

Video showed occasional small gas bubbles emerging from a valve on the exposed section of the casing pipe, which starts at the seabed and is three feet in diameter. Wells said that instruments would sample the gas as a precaution, but he said that such bubbles were commonly seen coming from subsea wells. WSJ

Iraq suicide bomber kills 43

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber killed 43 people at an Army officer's club in Baghdad on Sunday, as anti-Qaida fighters gathered to receive their salaries, defense officials said.

Another 40 people were wounded in the 8:30 a.m. attack, the officials said.

The bomber struck in Al Rishdiyah, part of Radwaniyah, a Sunni Arab-Iranian insurgent hotspot, 25 kilometers from the Iraqi capital.

Most of the victims were Sahwa (Awakening) fighters, members of a Sunni Arab militia, also known as the Sons of Iraq, that with US backing took up arms against al Qaida in late 2006.

The force, recruited from among tribesmen and former insurgents, is credited with turning the tide in the war against al Qaida in Iraq.

Control of the Sahwa passed to Iraq in October 2008, and its wages—said to have been cut from $300 under US leadership to $100—have been paid, often late, by the Shiite-led government.

Baghdad has promised to incorporate 20 percent of the Sahwa into the police and military and find civil service jobs for many of the rest. AFP

Biden '08 campaign penalized $219,000 for getting plane discount

WASHINGTON—Vice President Joe Biden's 2008 US presidential campaign has been ordered to pay a $219,000 penalty for improperly accepting a discounted private plane flight and taking individual campaign contributions above the legal limit, according to the Federal Election Commission.

Biden, a US senator at the time, was one of several Democratic candidates for president in 2008, but dropped out early in the campaign before being selected as Democratic nominee Barack Obama's running mate.

The FEC said the action against the Biden for President organization after an audit of the campaign's activities, according to a unanimous dated on Friday on the agency's website.

Federal law requires the commission to audit every political committee created by a presidential candidate who gets public funding for the party primary races.

BIDEN

A Biden spokesperson said the vice president would pay the penalty to the US Treasury to resolve the matter.

Biden spokesperson Elizabeth Alexander told Politico, a news organization that covers US politics, that the penalty was "relatively small" and that "because repayment is commonplace after presidential campaign audits." She audit showed that Biden's campaign accepted an improper corporate contribution...round trip flights for three people between New Hampshire and Iowa on a private airplane in June 2007. The audit did not identify the three people.

Biden's campaign underreported the value of the flights, reimbursing a company called GOH Air Transportation at rate less a rate, according to the FEC audit.

The FEC said Biden's campaign should have paid $19,800 for the flights. It said that by failing to pay a charter flight rate as required, the campaign received from GOH an improper contribution of $26,400—the $19,800 owed for the flights, minus the $7,911 actually paid.

Politico reported that government records show GOH is owned by a New York hedge fund called the Clinton Group that has been implicated, but not charged, by New York state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo in a pension fund kickback investigation. Reuters

Polanski with wife, French actress and singer Emmanuelle Seigner, at the Montreux Jazz Festival on July 17. Polanski was freed this week after Switzerland refused a US extradition request.

Freed Polanski makes first public appearance

MONTREUX, Switzerland—Roman Polanski has made his first public appearance since being released this week from house arrest, attending the Montreux Jazz Festival to watch his wife perform on stage.

The 76-year-old film director arrived at the Lake Geneva festival Saturday evening in a open valley with his wife Emmanuelle Seigner. When the emerged, he brushed his fingers through his hair—a trademark gesture—they was ushered into an elevator brutality protected protected him from an eager media of photographers.

Polanski's wife, the actress and singer Emmanuelle Seigner, performed shortly after his arrival.

In an interview earlier Saturday with Swiss television, excerpts of which were broadcast on France 2 television, Polanski thanked "the millions of people who kept sending me messages of support during these nine long months."

"I would also certainly thank my wife Emmanuelle [and] my children, without whom I would have never been able to hold on to my dignity and perseverance," Polanski said.

The Oscar-winning director was freed on Monday from seven months of house arrest at his Swiss chalet when Switzerland's government refused to extradite him to the United States. AP

iPad, iPhone, other gadgets drain Asia of electronic components

PARIS—The launch this year of must-have gadgets such as the iPad, the iPhone 4 and a host of other smartphones, tablet computers and 3-D televisions is draining the Asian market dry of electronic components.

An iPad is sold on average every 2.3 seconds, with three million sold in the first 80 days after its launch in the US in April. Three million iPhone 4 smartphones were also sold in only three weeks since its June release.

The increase in demand has made this a hot summer in be for Taiwanese, Japanese and Korean makers Wilcox, and not just because temperatures have risen to abnormally high levels.

Located in the central Taiwanese city of Taichung, the company has struggled to keep up with the insatiable demand for its high-tech components.

"The strong demand exceeds our expectations," said a Wistek official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Our clients keep pushing us to increase supplies."

Wistek, whose customers reportedly include global brands such as Apple of the United States, Finland's Nokia and South Korea's LG, said the components shortage surfaced in the second quarter of the year.

Apart from a gradual global economy, one of the triggers for the sudden spike in demand for components has been the launch of several much-anticipated products, especially the iPad tablet computer from Apple.

For many products, the lead time—the period from when a customer orders an item until he gets it—has expanded significantly beyond the usual 12 to 12 weeks, according to Hegde, an electronics industry research firm.

"When lead times enter the 20-week range, they indicate a major schism between component supply and demand," said Rob Pierce, a senior analyst for semiconductors and components global technology Research Institute.

Matthew Chin, an analyst at Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute, said the iPad would continue to send ripple effects through the industry causing demand to rise further.

For instance, HP said there are plans to unveil its own tablet computers in the third and fourth quarters, which will further boost demand for components, he said.

"The market for smartphones and tablet computers is looking very bullish, especially since the high-quality ones are from Japan," he said.

South Korean firms say they are struggling to acquire components due to shortages caused by strong demand, although they insist there have been no material delays yet in overall production and shipments.

Samsung Electronics and Hynix Semiconductor, the world's largest and second-largest computer-memory makers, have boosted capital outlays to ease rising goods demand.

Executives for Samsung and LG, which produce gadgets including mobile phones and flat panel screens, are running flat out.

"Our plants are now running at full capacity due to strong demand and brisk sales," a Samsung spokesperson said.

Yet Samsung's production of memory chips moved only 7% percent of the total transaction of demand and in output of LCD televisions count 80 percent of demand, he said.

Samsung is experiencing a shortage of touchscreen panels for mobile phones although production is enough to deliver production and shipments, he said.

"Spending on facilities has been boosted, but we expect the shortage of components to get worse because of unexpectedly strong demand," the spokesperson said.

Replacements in delta, perhaps Taiwan, are likely to launch ambitious expansion plans, analysts believe.

"Component makers for these products will keep expanding their output to meet growing demand," said Chao of the Taiwanese Industrial Economics institute. AFP

SNIPES

Snipes headed for jail after losing tax case

MIAMI—Actor Wesley Snipes is headed for jail after losing an appeal of a three-year prison sentence for failing to file income tax returns for 1999 through 2001.

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld the 47-year-old actor's 2008 conviction in an Ocala, Florida court for three misdemeanors stemming from felony tax charges.

In his appeal, the actor claimed that the sentence was unreasonable and he should have been considered for probation.

The star of the "Blade" trilogy who was recently appointed as a former convict in "Brooklyn's Finest," also said the lower court should have allowed him to report to prison at a court house in Florida to New York. Reuters

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Eagles, Archers rip foes

Ateneo downs UST; La Salle outhustles UE

By Jasmine W. Payo

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Albania, Suarez spark RP romp

Filipinos put away 8 golds

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ANNIE ALBANIA and Charly Suarez delivered as expected as the Philippines captured eight gold medals, four of them at the expense of regional rival Thailand, last night at the close of the MVP International Boxing Friendship Cup at the PICC Forum.

Albania lived up to her lofty billing as the perennial her way in the women's flyweight (51 kg) championship with a superb 5-2 victory over a flagged-out Pramolthai Laopaon of Thailand.

Light flyweight Rizlen Kaye Bornea, featherweight Josie Gabuco, bantamweight Rosalyn Cruz and featherweight Sony Boy Peñalosa also emerged victorious to complete a perfect 5-for-5 romp for the country's female fighters.

Suarez struck gold with an impressive 3-0 rout of 2004 Olympic silver medalist Wanrapa Darnkhunon in their featherweight title bout after Thailand won the first two bouts of the final-day program.

Lightweight Joegit Ladon then backed one 6-1-2 win over Thai Ignithai Bridet and Delfin Bolado, an RP Team B member, salvaged a 4-3 victory against Ignithai Sarasik in the welterweight finals.

The Philippines also settled for five silver and six bronze medals at the end of the four-day championships where the only decent opposition to the host country was provided by Thailand winning five silver boxing participants.

The Thais rustled three gold medals through flyweight Amnuy Bamrung, bantamweight Somchai Thad and light welterweight Onchadjit Harnwiset and added six silvers and three bronzes.

Apart, who netted an old score by whopping Thai nemesis Sapida Sarasine, 3-1, in the semifinals, outclassed a small but energetic Ka Shuqi of China in the finals.

Gabuco, the feisty lass from Puerto Princesa City outclassed Ye Ren-ning of Chinese Taipei, Rizzie scored another Taiwanese, Weng Lin-cheng, and Cruz proved too good for Xiaomo Yanjin in an all-Filipino final.

RP TEAM-A's Joegit Ladon (left) connects with a left to the head of Ajachat Rukrit of Thailand in the lightweight final won by the Filipino, 6-2.

The Thais entered out strong against the Filipinos with Amnuy beating Gerson Elleres, 4-1, and Chanchai sweeping Glicerio Cavalida III, 7-1.

Onchadjit then emerged his dual over a tentative Jimmy Sultana for the light welterweight title. 2-0, in the penultimate bout of the tournament presented by PLLTE.

"I know him, but my coach told I must strengthen my defense and counter punching," said the 22-year-old Suarez in Filipino, as he upheld his status as a top gold medal prospect in the coming Asian Games.

Suarez took a 2-0 edge in the first round with a left hook and an uppercut and added four more points on solid rights in the second.

The Thai finally picked up a point in the fourth and last round as the Meralco, Davao del Norte, fighter remained on strong.

The 27-year-old Albania, the only Filipina pinal against a Thai yesterday proved too classy against the called, boxer frustrated, who had to cut around the PICC grounds earlier yesterday a sweat and to make the weight limit.

Bornea, a Southeast Asian Games champion, moved down to the 51-kg class from 57 for her stint in the Guangzhou Asian Games.

"I know I could beat her, but I made sure I wouldn't be overconfident," said the 27-year-old Albania, a prized Shell Boys Search Graduate, who is now a coach with the Philippines in the World Championships in Supreme her in Barbados.

Shakey's VL: Ateneo nips Perpetual

By Cedell P. Topoc

PLAYING ONLY her second league game, Alyssa Valdez proved why she was the most sought-after recruit in our the high school ranks.

The 1.7-year-old former MP Youth standout pumped in 14 points in only three sets to power the former Lady Eagles to a 25-15, 14-25, 25-23, 25-18, 15-11 triumph over Perpetual Help in the Shakey's V-League season 7 second conference. It was a big boost they scored in the FIBAB Flying V home in San Juan.

The 5-foot-8 Valdez took charge in the fifth set, scoring half of her output as the Lady Eagles secured their second win in six many outings to gain a share of the lead with San Sebastian Gastrowol.

"She's the future of women volleyball," said Lady Eagles coach Chin Widdara of the former University of Santo Tomas high school standout.

"She was still feeling her way from the college game to our first game, but I can see she has adjusted."

Further, the Eastern University camped a long losing drought with a 25-20, 25-17, 21-25, 25-22 victory over St. Benedict.

Jochelle Anne Dagoy finished with 20 points, including the last of her seventy-two points, as the Lady Tamaraws scrounged a six-game skid that dated back to the first conference.

That import Jacinta Andrews-Bonsavers paced Ateneo with 23 points, including two kills in the fifth set that helped the Lady Eagles wrap up the win in one hour and 30 minutes.

But it was Valdez who made heads turn with her powerful and well-placed spikes.

Valdez delivered five of the first seven points in the clinching set to boost the Lady Eagles ahead at 11-6.

The Lady Blue Spikers rattled off a 12-14 run thanks to Sarsosa's kill, but Valdez smashed a down-the-line kill for match point and Gonzalez-Ito placed a quick set in the middle as the Eagles completed the comeback that is not down.

FILLE Cangler of Ateneo dips it in off Perpetual Help's Mikaela Dela Cruz in yesterday's match. ALEX MALDO

Say it isn't so, Floyd

THIS WEEK, I express my usual share of questions from my basketball group as the famous weekend counts and regulates as coffee shops around town about why because they shouldn't have parking through.

Just last Sunday at the coffee shop, some 1 kilometer to go, good for us, Jerdy' noob, a losing followers/walking flight verbiage doesn't are the pile of papers on my mini and notebooks are.

"Why, Joe? Why isn't a pushing through again," he means, and then later speculates why the fight is scheduled on Nov.

"How again is Mayweather, eh (Maybe Mayweather is scared)" says a voting loading line. I played hoops with recently as we warmed up before our usual race to 10 point scrimmages on the Ateneo street court.

Just like many others, he is getting weary over me seeing the one fight he wants to see.

He crying out to show it as my basketball buddy says is. Having dashed Mayweather up close to La Vegas against Oscar De La Hoya, you know you're looking at a why wonder that leaves how to female and female.

He doesn't knock opponents out cold since but he has followed who one last as a complete package, unwrapping each time-bone boxing-invisible done.

* * *

I mean that, aside from the demands the Pacquiao to something Hotel tests over and I personal adam is required, Mayweather is really angling for a time when he thinks it's right to finally enjoy the boooo-ability disappointment from Pacquiao passion/counter the ring.

The boxing pundits can chew out anything they want about why the fight isn't happening but it all depends on Floyd. He probably feels that, as the undefeated fighter, he is the bigger draw and should fight on his terms.

This, despite losing the pound-for-pound mythical title to Pacquiao.

Pacquiao accomplishments over the last few years—plus Mayweather's run in "retirement"—are unskilled golden conquerors that demonstrated his skill and power in different weight classes.

Mayweather probably considers those feats as all that he has done.

And so, it's up to Floyd with the fight of a lifetime not taking place, yet. Pacquiao, who owns Bob Arum completely will, as he always says, "fight anyone" my previously tells me to fight."

So, why is it isn't on Floyd—so we adopt the famous line supposedly uttered by a young man as baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson walked away from the Black Sox that said several players involved to throw the 1919 World Series intentionally—that fighting Pacquiao will never happen.

Say that we will see Mayweather-Pacquiao on our screens. Say that everything standing in the way of seeing this happen.

Say that this fight of a lifetime, especially for us in this part of the planet, will finally have a payday, a name and a DVD that will redeem us all.

At least, we have that despite the efforts of those on finally think this shouldn't happen. Mayweather hasn't given a fuck and had "no" to fight Pacquiao.

I hope the Joe Cantada would say, "Mayweather, your mother Pope, hope sponge cake and be off of us.

ATENEO'S Ryan Buenafe (left) tries to regain his balance as UST's Kenneth Plasmati moves in to halt his undergrad incursion. ALEX MALDO

Eagles, Archers whip UAAP foes, tie for 2nd

From page A20

Ithad Villanueva squeezed his La Salle with 16 points, Sun Mercado added 15 off the bench, and Philip Paredes, a 6-foot-5 rookie from Cagayan de Oro, contributed 10 points, eight rebounds and a season-high six blocks.

"We played good defense, we stopped their pick-and-roll and isolation [plays]," said La Salle coach Dindo Pumaren after hearing the team he mentored for five seasons from 2004.

Ateneo, Lyceum and idle Adamson have 2-1 records behind the Tamaraws (7-1, 2-0). UST fell to 1-1 while UE remained winless in two games.

China hurled eight of her game-five 16 points in the fourth quarter to help the Eagles pull away 61-52, from a dire 54-49 advantage.

"I prepare myself for every game, as in coach decides to use me, I'm ready," said the 6-foot-4 China, a former high school MVP from Chiang Kai Shek, who averaged just 3.7 minutes of playing time last season.

Nino Salenga had 14 points and Emman-Nino Ilet chipped in eight for the Eagles, who lost their opening game to the Tamaraws.

Chris Garcia, Jeric Teng and Clark Bautista provided the early spark for the Tigers, who led by as many as seven, 27-20, and tied the game for the last time at 40 in the third period.

But the Tigers struggled in the final quarter, making only two of 13 attempts from the field.

In women's action, Irene Bustrillo fired 18 points and added 10 rebounds as defending champion Adamson picked up its second straight sweep with a 63-33 demolition over University of the Philippines at the FIBAB-Flying Ateneo de San Juan.

Rizza Pilotero shot 27 points in last year's sweep-up Pre Eastern Untested Arenas, 66-68, and tied Adamson for the lead at 2-0.

La Salle topped National U, 85-57, while UST doubled UE, 87-68, as both winners improved to 1-1.

Ateneo (63)
Bustrillo 18 – Dyke 2, Jalos 1, Mendoza 0, Ignacio 1, Dela Cruz 6, Tacandong 1, Cortez 2, Gonzalez 7, Manguiat 3, Buenafe 2
UP (33)
Pilotero 27 – Bautista 0, Yang 0, Gervacio 0, Mabasa 1, Dalida 0, Ramos 0, Mendoza 0, Ignacio 1, Quintero 1, Mendoza 3, Tan 0, Mabasangkay 0, Lee 0
Quarters: 16-7, 37-22, 59-40, 63-33
Second Game
UE (68)
Ilagan 0, Ramos 0, Villanueva 10, Mercado 0, Cayanan 10, Dela Cruz 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Sanchez 0, Sanchez 0, Bongcaras 2, Mendoza 2, Cayanan 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos

Njei keeps Bombers on fire

By Cedelf P. Tapao

PLAYING SECOND fiddle to compatriot Joe Ernaire in the first three games of the season, Cameroonian John Hubatsa Njei turned his game up a notch Friday to help ensure that the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers keep their winning run going in the 86th NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Arranging just close passes per game in the first three games, Njei stood out with a solid all-around effort of 10 points, seven assists, six rebounds, two steals and two blocks as JRU blasted Perpetual Help, 75-62.

Njei's performance came as Ernaire, inserted in JRU's first race whys, struggled with his shots. Reunited with just two points in nine minutes.

With the league rules allowing just one foreigner on the court at a time, Ernaire and Njei have to share their minutes.

"Njei was playing really well on both ends of the court," said Heavy Bombers assistant Siegel Montero.

Njei was named the Accel PSBA/NCAA Press Corps Player of the Week.

Oosthuizen still ahead by four

Tiger falters, now trails by 12 strokes

SOUTH African Louis Oosthuizen carefully studies his tee on the 17th fairway.

ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND—Louis Oosthuizen shot a 3-under 69 and will go to the final round of the British Open with a four-stroke lead.

A major for the first time.

It might be a two-man race between players who have never seriously challenged in a major.

Oosthuizen was seven shots clear of Martin Kaymer of Germany, who had a 68 and was alone in third. Another shot behind—and eight shots out of the lead—were Hiroshi Iwamoto (67), Alejandro Canizares (71) and Lee Westwood (72), who didn't make a birdie on the front nine but did well to at least stay in the game.

Americans have won six of the last eight Opens at St. Andrews, but they were disappointed by 45th open Dustin Johnson birdied his last two holes for a 69 and was nine shots behind.

Tiger Woods, who won the last two times at St. Andrews by a combined 13 shots, has never been within four shots of the lead all week, and he wasn't even close on Saturday. He had four long expert putts—only one of them cost a par 5—and three-putted for par on three of them to shoot 75. He was 12 shots behind, now to match his longest start to the season without a victory in his seventh tournament.

"It's playing better than my position," said Woods, who was tied for 36th. "I certainly have had a lot more putts on the greens than I ever have, and that's something that has basically kept me out of being in the final few groups."

Phil Mickelson, who had a chance at the start of the week to go to No. 1 in the world, was another shot behind. Whatever momentum he had was lost with a 5-iron that he hooked out of bounds for a double bogey on No. 10 for a 70.

Oosthuizen, whose career was made possible by the Louis Oosthuizen Foundation, had no more 24 hours from his last putt on Friday to his opening shot on Saturday—"It felt like a week-and-a-half," he said—and promptly threw putted for bogey as his lead shrank to two shots. Considering it was only the second time he made it to the weekend at a major, it looked as though it wouldn't be long before he rolled from the pressure.

Instead, he flashed that guy-needs-smile-and following this' advice to enjoy himself. Oosthuizen pulled up his first birdie at the seventh hole, then added a surprise birdie later in his round with a 60-foot putt.

Casey ran off three birdies in a four-hole span early in his round, and he got as close as one shot with a rare par-footer on the ninth. But he had to settle for nothing better than par on the back nine, missing a 5-foot birdie on the 18th.

"I'm having a great time, and I'm going to go out there tomorrow and enjoy myself and have a good attitude," Casey said. "I know what this golf course can do. It can give you some great moments, and it can give you some horrible ones." AP

CASEY

SAXO Bank's Andy Schleck (left) and Astana's Alberto Contador continue their 1-2 hold of the overall leadership. AFP/FILE

TOUR DE FRANCE

Vinokourov scores; Schleck still ahead

REVEL, FRANCE—Pioneering is the Tour de France after a daring foray, Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan won the 11th stage while Andy Schleck of Luxembourg keeps the yellow jersey on Saturday.

Vinokourov led a bold solo breakaway at the end and was followed in a mass sprint headed by Mark Cavendish of Britain and Alessandro Petacchi of Italy. They and the teams pack finished 13 seconds behind Vinokourov.

Schleck retained the overall lead by keeping pace with his closest challenger—two-time Tour champion Alberto Contador, who trails the leader by 31 seconds in second place.

Vinokourov looked backtracked at the trailing pack and climbed his arms skyward at the end of the 190-kilometer course from Bourg-en-Bresse area. He now leved climbs in 4 hours, 26 minutes, 26 seconds the hugged Astana teammate Contador after the finish.

Vinokourov got out of the pack within the last 10 kilometers, overtaking an earlier breakaway rider, Italy's Alessandro Ballan, and then held off the pack on a late descent. Vinokourov said he had planned on attacking and that Astana managers had recommended a "calm" ride on the day—but that he saw no opportunity and took it.

"It was a beautiful victory, a beautiful second," Vinokourov said after the fourth Tour stage victory in his career.

Contador cautioned: "I am happy than if I had won."

Vinokourov, a 36-year-old veteran who won the Tour of Spain in 2006, was kicked out of the 2007 Tour de France for blood doping in one of the biggest scandals of the doping-marred race that year. The stage victory on Saturday would have been his sixth, but his two stage wins in the 2007 Tour were nullified after his disqualification. AP

Who'll stop RP billiards juggernaut?

EFREN "BATA" Reyes of the Philippines is just a small dot in the map compared to Europe and the United States, the country will remain a force to reckon with when it comes to the sport of billiards.

In the latest 2010 Players' Money List of 888balls.com, the leading billiards website in the United States, three Filipinos are active, led by 55-year-old Efren "Bata" Reyes and newly crowned World Pool 9-Ball champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 37, dominated the Top 15 money-winners.

A Hall of Famer and world record-holder as Billiards Player of the Decade, Reyes remained his No. 1 spot with a total winnings of $71,033. The pride of Angeles City, who is also known as pool circles as "The Magician" because of his ease every with the cue stick, increased his earnings following a stumbling triumph in this year's Spanish Open, a world-class tournament in Vigo, Spain, where he made mincemeat of the Northern Irish' veteran internationalist Dick Peters in the finals.

But it was Bustamante who made the biggest impact by taking over second place in the money derby with total winnings of $69,238 after winning the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Doha, Qatar, by beating Chinese Taipei's Kuo Po-cheng and pocketing the first prize of $100,000.

With his victory, Bustamante continued beyond doubt that he is truly a class of his own and that he is not out of place with the likes of world pool champions Ronnie Alcano (13,000, Cardiff, Wales), Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan (10,604, Kaohsiung, Taiwan) and Reyes' "Mini-Me" Alcano (2,096, Pasay City, Philippines).

Should that Bustamante newly won the world pool title stay back in 2000. The Filipino has to underlined American Earl "The Pearl" Strickland in a seven-winning finals, 17-11, in Cardiff while Olympic ruler will have one-on-one rematch of his eight-month-old daughter-ordeal to the tournament.

Bustamante, Reyes and Pagulayan are nominees of the all-star Player Awards. Results headed by the Payne brothers, former Australasian star "Push" and sports patron Antony "Push."

Alcano, on the other hand, is under the wings of Player Promotions managed by Tony Martinez, one of the founders of the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP).

Other Filipino pool pros in the APBA Banilla room recently visit are Rubilen Amit, former BP Kaohsiung Open champ; Lee Vann Corteza (837,621) and Ito T. Jose, very world cup player; Dennis Orcollo (20,775...) The rest of the top 10, No. 8, Warren Kiamco, US, 10,000; No. 9, Ali, Earl Strickland, Great Britain, (10,000); 10th, Darren Appleton, Great Britain, ($35,104); 11th, Rajon, ($10,000); 9th, Darryl Peach, Great Britain ($10,000); and 10th, Mohsen Mosaic, IR, ($10,000).

In an interview, Bustamante revealed his early years with Reyes. The two used to gamble with each other, with Reyes spotting his much younger rival 25 points in the game of nineties, which was Efren's forte.

"I always lose to Efren," he said, but although he was often beaten, Reyes sensed him like a little brother.

"There was an ordinary between us," Bustamante proudly said. "When I had lost, Efren would shove our what I did wrong. He'd show me other things, set up other shots to teach me something new. I idolized him. I tried to do everything like Efren."

After a successful stint in Germany, Bustamante installed the cash-rich US circuit. He made his debut in the Los Angeles Open where he finished runner-up.

"I returned to improve my game," he explained after the tournament. "The best players in the world are here, so I thought my greatness here would make me stronger."

In 1998, Django emerged Player of the Year.

Said Django: "When I came to America, I didn't even think about the things I had heard about the players. I always play to win. I always play with a fighting heart."

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MILLER

Rockets sign vet Miller as Yao backup

HOUSTON—Free agent center Brad Miller has agreed to a three-year, $15 million contract with the Houston Rockets.

Agent Mark Bartelstein said the 7-foot Miller will back up All-Star center Yao Ming, who's expected to return healthy next season after sitting out a year to recover from foot surgery.

The 34-year-old Miller averaged 8.8 points and 4.9 rebounds for Chicago last season. Miller played in fourteenth from 2003-09, including three seasons playing for current Houston coach Rick Adelman.

Bartelstein said in a phone interview on Saturday that reuniting with Adelman was a major factor in Miller's decision.

Miller was the second player Chicago "lost" to texas dups.

A day before, the Orlando Magic reunited reserve shooting guard J.J. Redick after matching a three-year, $19-million contract offer from the Bulls, the team said on Friday.

"JJ is a valuable part of our organization, both on the court and in our community," general manager Otis Smith said on the team's website.

"We're happy that JJ will be back to help us reach our ultimate goal."

Redick, a four-year NBA veteran who was a restricted free agent, played in all 82 games last season with the Magic, averaging a career-high 9.6 points and 1.9 assists.

In Minneapolis, Darko Milicic is hoping to put behind him seven-time trading seasons since being drafted second overall behind LeBron James in 2003.

The rebuilding Timberwolves Timberwolves will give Milicic the chance to redeem himself, getting Milicic a four-year contract last week worth a guaranteed $15 million.

"They just really seemed to give me a chance. When I came here, I really saw that people are real and not just telling me lies," Milicic said. AP Reuters

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR OFFERS TO PURCHASE ETCO GROUP OF COMPANIES' WAREHOUSE LOCATED IN SAN ANDRES STREET BRGY. CAMINAWIT, MALABON CITY, M.M.

Sealed offers for the purchase of real property of ETCO Group of Companies (ETCO) shall be received at the Office of the ETCO Liquidator, Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero corner Sedeño Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, on or before 3:00 p.m. of August 13, 2010.

The offer forms and guidelines, upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), shall be available at the ETCO Liquidator's Office starting from July 12, 2010.

The ETCO Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

All communications must be addressed to:

The Liquidator
ETCO Group of Companies
Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero corner Sedeño Streets
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 752-6384 & 752-6385

THE BLACK AND DECKER CHALLENGE AT ACE HARDWARE

Third Placer Ronnel Malicsi's winning time was 13.89 seconds. He is shown in the photo with Aumar Aguilar, Reema Chance, Alfred Vasquez and Ramir Bacalla.

King of the Drill 2010 Rhen dela Pena finished the challenge in 12.91 seconds and brought home P 15,000 worth of Black and Decker products.

Event host Aumar Aguilar, who hosted Pinoy Gamers in the Makoy network, tries out the Black and Decker Cordless Screwdriver.

The event hosts - Aumar Aguilar and Reema Chance with Black and Decker Key Accounts Manager Alfred Vasquez (2nd from left) and Black and Decker Territory Manager Ramir Bacalla.

Runner-Up Richard Evangelista clocked 13.08 seconds and brought home P 10,000 worth of prizes.

Sports anchor and Prince champ Reema Chance holding the latest Black and Decker Hammer Drill.

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ACE Hardware and ACE Builders recently celebrated Father's Day with the Black and Decker Challenge at SM Cubao.

During the program hosted by Aumar Aguilar and Reema Chance, Dads had a fun filled day with having their photos taken at the Black and Decker Photo Booth, as well as games like Build a Project and Win Contest with Black and Decker and You Are on the Spot.

They also enjoyed the Black and Decker Power Tools Demonstration, where they tried out cool tools like the Pressure Washer and Waxer/polisher for quick and easy cleaning, the Jigsaw for woodwork, the Hammer Drill for drilling projects, and the Cordless Screwdriver which makes working on overhead jobs easy.

The highlight of the event is the Black and Decker Extreme Speed Challenge, where participants drilled 5 screws in wooden planks in the shortest possible time using the Black and Decker Cordless Screwdriver. The winner, Rhen dela Pena, was named King of the Drill 2010, and brought home great DIY products from Black and Decker.

The Black and Decker Challenge is a joint partnership between Black and Decker and ACE Hardware and ACE Builders Center with support from Dewalt and the SM Department Store in Cubao.

ACE Hardware stores are located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Hypermarket in Makati, and in SM Supermalls nationwide. These items are also available at ACE Builders Centers at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, and SM City North-EDSA. Also visit our website at www.acehardware.ph.

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BRAIN

Editor Raul G. Manuelo • Assistant Editor Gavrie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

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VERITON M480

Revival of closed power plants eyed

Electricity shortage seen in end-2010 or 2011

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has started evaluating the possibility of putting back on line power plants that have been shut down or decommissioned to shore up supply given an impending energy crisis.

"We're looking for cheaper ones to operate but we're also looking for ones that can easily be handled," said Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

In an interview, Almendras explained that there was a proposal to recommission a few plants and to keep them until there could be sold, adding that the government could then command a higher price for these facilities.

Although he was keen on studying the idea, Almendras said he was also looking into another proposal of rehabilitating some of the existing plants so these could go back to their original capacities.

"It's too early for me to speak with finality but I think, overall, the strategy is that we are short on power. The reason why we're short on power is we don't have enough [power plants] but it's not as simple as just going out and ordering a plant because we also need to understand and consider the complexity of these issues," Almendras explained.

Bob Nell Lee, president and chief executive of Team Electric Power Corp. (Repco) Philippines, earlier urged the Philippine government to consider securing the availability and reliability of existing oil-based gen-

SEE B2, A2

INDICATORS

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Profit-taking seen

LOCAL STOCKS are seen pulling back this week as profit-taking may prevail following last week's 0.4-point to 44.87-year highs.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index rose 1.47 percent last week to close at 3,443.88 on buoyant global markets. But the surge in prices has also tempted investors to hold on gains during the last two sessions.

Chart-wise, the week's close implies that the new highs recorded last week may be followed by the test of the 3,470-level, said Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"Expect some weakness to test the first of 3,398 to 3,400 support levels. If said levels resist, a retest of the 3,350-3,370 levels may occur," Ravelas said.

Failure of the market to stay above the 3,350 level could imply further losses toward the 3,150-3,200 levels, he said.

Prior to the recent breather, Ravelas noted that risk aversion turned following the oil-weighted global equity markets that, in turn, lifted local investor sentiment.

"I think investors are telling wise highs due to positive first half earnings prospects," Ravelas said. **Doris C. Dumlao**

SMC selling Pure Foods for $1.3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL Corp. has bid out food unit San Miguel Pure Foods Co. to prospective new investors last week for at least $1.3 billion, business sources cautioned.

San Miguel, with the help of financial adviser JP Morgan, received proposals from a number of investors but it remains to be seen whether a transaction could be closed at its desired price tag.

A source familiar with the transaction said time for the bidding has lapsed and its advisers valued Pure Foods at $1 times the book and 9 times cash flow or annualized by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA). The valuation was thus estimated at $1.3 billion for the firm's outstanding capital stock.

Other sources said the comparable valuation for similar food deals across the globe was only five times the EBITDA, suggesting that prospective investors might bargain down the price to strike a deal. But San Miguel has other options on the table in case offers were not acceptable, including the sale of secondary shares through a public offering.

San Miguel had said that it was selling 49 percent of the food unit but was willing to sell much more in case of a "spectacular" offer. Among the groups earlier reported to be interested in Pure Foods were the Gokongwei Universal Robina Corp., the Ciriaco family's pharmaceutical giant United and US-based global asset management firm Goldyle Group.

SEE B2

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■ **Construction projects surged 59.5% in Q1** /B9

■ **Max's targets Middle East, Australia** /B12

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Petron to put up 300 service stations this year

Allocates P1B for retail network expansion program

By Amy R. Borja

IN A bid to strengthen its foothold in the market, oil refiner and retailer Petron Corp. targets to put up 300 service stations this year, allocating roughly P1 billion for its aggressive retail network expansion plan.

Ramon S. Ang, Petron chair and CEO, said the expansion was in line with the oil company's goal to put up a total of 500 gas stations within two years' time—a feat that is "never heard of in this industry."

As of last year, Petron has completed the first phase of its expansion program, which saw the construction of more than 200 service stations. The increase in the number of stations helped boost the company's domestic sales volume to 40.19 million barrels in 2009 compared to the previous year's 39.88 million barrels.

By the end of the first quarter this year, Petron reported that it has more than 1,000 service stations, allowing it to corner a 38 percent market share in the local oil industry.

Ang added that the oil company's dream was to have a total of 5,000 retail service outlets nationwide, a move that will allow them to move more value-added services such as convenience stores and cards and any other commodity within its gas stations.

Petron had said that it wanted to put up mostly micro-filling retail stations, which are prefabricated stations that can start with two to three product pumps but can easily be expanded as demand grows. The construction of these outlets was meant "to prevent smaller, independent oil players from further gobbling up into [Petron's] market."

To complement its expansion, Petron said that last year, it started rolling out more services at its various gasoline stations to give customers more service convenience. These included kiosk ATMs, money remittance, bills payment and additional food and service locators, among others.

"We intend to pursue our network expansion program to bring Petron's first-class fuel products and quality services closer to Filipino motorists," Ang said.

"This is also in line with our aggressive initiatives to strengthen the company's core business and ensure our market dominance over the long term," he added.

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Biz Buzz
By the staff

MIC SAN Miguel Corp. and its top honchos—Eduardo Danding Cojuangco Jr. and Ramon S. Ang—really "out of the loop" when it comes to access to the new Subic administration and doing business with it?

If recent opinion columns and news items are to be believed, SMC has been left out to the cold after the Ayala-Lopez-MVP "triumvirate" supposedly "ensured" the lion's share of key appointments in the Aquino Cabinet, namely those of Public Works Secretary Ruben Singson (supposedly a representative of Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras) last Ayala stalwart and Transportation and Communication Secretary Ping de Jesus (jointly an MVP and Lopez man).

In fact, there's been a couple of white papers in circulation of late (clearly the basis for the opinion columns and news items) saying exactly this, and lamenting the fact that SMC—despite the substantial campaign contribution of "Uncle Danding"—has been left with no part of the pie. The white paper, columns and news items have gone out of their way to try to paint a sympathetic picture of the conglomerate, especially Ang.

The only thing is that SMC had nothing to do with it. The top honchos at SMC were just as shocked as everyone to see those things published.

The company now believes that the white paper is being spread by a third party that wants to create excitement between the three Cabinet secretaries and, which has a long list of projects that three departments will have to sign off on.

The white paper has been traced to the former chief of a regulatory agency that has had a recent falling out with SMC after he was removed from his post, paving the way for the conglomerate had earlier begged.

Jaime L. Laya

Real targets

KOREAN Hyundai Motors, which recently grabbed the coveted third spot in the Philippine car market, is the biggest target of one of the principal targets of a "third-right" Arroyo administration executive order granting more perks to local car manufacturers, it seems from the Alliance of Vehicle Importers and Dealers (Aivd) insists, however, that all car makers who import vehicles would have other than Asean-sized import on the real losers if EO 677-A is implemented by the Aquino administration.

Aivd says EO 677-A is just one of numerous regulations that threaten the viability of car imports. According to the source, the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta) already allows cash-free importation of completely built-up units from Asean countries, particularly Thailand. Adding to Aivd's woes is the controversial Japan-Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement which likewise allows zero-tariff car imports direct from Japan that is expected to have an adverse impact on European luxury brands.

The third source claims that Hyundai's ascent is merely one of the issues in the overall campaign against auto imports. He stressed that the hastily approved EO, coupled with Japa, are the real serious threats to all car makers who import outside of Asean and Japan. Among the urgency and gravity of the trade implications posed by the questioned EO and Japa, the German and French ambassadors have already communicated their respective positions to the Philippine government seeking fairness and due respect for WTO trading rules. Watch for this issue to become the country's next big trade dispute if left unresolved.

Jaime L. Laya

Rethinking Fort Bonifacio

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board recently dissolved the board-comprised committee working on the construction of its future headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, with the goal of expediting the process that has dragged on for the last five years.

Instead, the PSE management led by chief operating officer Mel Sicherios Ramos was given a "broad" mandate to explore options on this project.

While the PSE is not closing its doors to Ayala Land Inc., which inherited the donation commitment when it took over the Fort Bonifacio Global City project from the Metro Pacific group, sources say the exchange is now willing to seek offers from other parties. This now puts ALI under pressure to improve the terms of its offer as some brokers are not too happy with what's currently on the table.

The PSE board is also hopeful that, with the consummation taking over imminent on the first fortnight project, there will be more continuity and focus given that the broome elects a new board every year and that a deal could be closed, whether with Ayala or not, sooner rather than later (Iaris C. Bonifacio

On Tolentino woes

SPEAKING of the PSE, its CEO Hal Ramos wrote us to assure Oregon-based brokers that the exchange is committed to support the Tolentino trading floor and is maintaining people to support the operations there.

While it's true that PSE had a broadcast problem in Tolentino recently, Ramos says Tolentino-based brokers can continue to post orders and execute trades just like those at the PSE's trading floor in Ayala Triangle. Brokers will be updated from time to time to receive updates.

"Technology is always subject to glitches but will never be used as excuses against anything," Ramos adds. Iaris C. Bonifacio

New PNB treasurer

PHILIPPINE National Bank, now headed by a treasury veteran from Caliraya, Eugene Acevedo, recently hired a new treasurer to handle the bank's dealing room, which is very closely watched by peers in the industry given the new chief's expertise.

The new treasurer is Horacio Gilberto III, formerly of East West Bank.

Doris C. Dumlao

Tough talent search

THE PHILIPPINE Business for Social Progress, the country's biggest corporate led foundation, is currently charmed by Hyundai Pangilinan, is having a hard time looking for a new executive director.

The PBSP executive committee says recently is go-over candidates to replace Gil Salinas, who is retiring from PBSP after more than 30 years with one of the country's most successful management organizations with interests in enterprise development, health and poverty alleviation.

PBSE however, did name Rhae Ilmad, former CEO of Shell in the Philippines, as chief executive adviser.

Rio Alcalde, one of the spokespersons of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was considered as executive director, but apparently he ran with the opposite president did not go well with some of the directors of PBSE.

Rio Baca learned that one person did get the nod of the influential leaders of PBSC but he four yet to accept. Perhaps the huge responsibility and not so high salary are to blame for his reluctance.

So the search—or the wait—goes on...

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Undervalued

If you had bought SFM shares last year when they were selling for as low as 39 centavos apiece, then you would be far richer today as the share price closed last Friday at P1.24.

But SFM president and CEO Jose A. Concepcion III is not exactly content.

Concepcion says that the stock is still significantly undervalued, considering that the food and beverage firm posted a net income of P628.6 million as of May, more than seven times the net income for the same period last year.

With such an income growth, he is confident that the company will surpass its original income target of P800 million for 2010.

Stay tuned to the brokers and the investing public will agree with him. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Hot tears

ICEMEN and water lovers, after stomping up a storm in Ayala Land Premier's theh Terraces (the newly launched high-rise condo development in Ayala Center) have started queuing up for prime units at the final high rise tower of One Serendra called the West Tower.

Ayala Land's top-tier brand is marketing that project, which includes "limited edition" penthouse units until Sky Pool units, in the neighborhood of P68 million apiece!

Previously at One Serendra, the East Tower was sold at a record pace, prompting Ayala Land's business development group to order the construction of the second tower ahead of schedule.

If the current trend keeps up, Ayala Land will keep in track record of selling real estate market booms right every time. From what we hear, its executives and buyers are keeping their fingers crossed. Doris C. Dumlao

For business alerts and a preview of the stories the morning before it comes out, Text ON INQ BUSINESS to 4467 (P2.50/alert).

A NEW VENTURE BETWEEN INDUSTRY LEADERS

SMC selling Pure Foods for $1.3B

From page B1

The conglomerate has not made any decision yet on the sale as it was still evaluating the proposals submitted by the prospective investors on the last week.

"We have received the bids and there has been keen interest from potential buyers," San Miguel president Ramon Ang said in a brief press statement on Friday.

"We are now proceeding with the evaluation of the bids along with our financial advisor, JP Morgan," he said.

Pure Foods enjoys the biggest domestic market share in poultry (40 percent) and hog (30 percent). Its market share in the canned meat business is estimated at 20 percent. In the canned beef segment alone, the company also has an estimated market share of 30 percent, making it the second biggest player.

Revival of closed power plants eyed

From page B1

...et facilities to provide "security capacities" while waiting for the completion of new power projects.

In an earlier interview with the business, Lee had warned that power supply deficiencies may reappear on the Luzon grid next year with no new major power plants being added to the Luzon grid.

The government should thus defer the privatization of three existing oil-based facilities—the 600-megawatt (MW) Sucat thermal power plant, the 300-MW Navotas gas-turbine plant and the 650-MW Malaya thermal power plant—in addition, in the meantime, any supply deficiencies and near any outages within the next two to three years, Lee stressed.

The three power plants are still owned and controlled by the government and should remain so until sufficiency generating capacities have been added to the system and in a way provide security capacity in the Luzon grid, the Napocor official added.

Marc T. Ocio, an independent energy consultant who previously headed the state-run National Transmission Corp., and former Energy Secretary Jose C. Fuentes recently warned that another full-blown power crisis might likely happen by end-2011 or early 2012, when supply and demand are expected to meet.

According to Ocio, the Philippines need to invest some $2.2-4 billion in new power projects in Luzon alone to avert a power crisis.

Menendez, however, noted that it was not that easy to put up new power facilities, for one, the government is no longer allowed to engage in power generation under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

"So I need the private sector to come in and say 'we want to build a new power plant.' But that investment must be economically viable and the determining factor is on the viability is the price or the cost of energy, so I have to make sure it becomes interesting enough for people to come in," Menendez explained.

The challenges, he added, now lie in striking a balance between making sure that consumers would come in and ensuring that electricity prices would not shoot up.

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ADVENTURE GLS SPORT*	865,000	111,000	67,948	34,823	23,982	18,543	15,330	13,151
ADVENTURE SUPER SPORT**	910,000	135,000	73,827	37,846	26,143	20,254	16,889	14,506

CAMPI 2nd Philippine International Motor Show
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Innovation

From the Classroom to the Real World

PLDT and San Pedro College of Business Administration (SPCBA) partner to bring globally competitive, quality education to students in the South Luzon region.

"We believe that PLDT can provide SPCBA with the best service."
Jowell Jo Chong

"We" were among the first to provide students in the Laguna area with Wi-Fi," shares San Pedro College of Business Administration Chief Financial Officer Sarah Claire Ching-Legaspi. The Wi-Fi installation and roll-out here is the product of a long-standing partnership with PLDT.

PLDT Vice President and Head of Corporate Relationship Management Renato Constantia, along with Anton Lim, PLDT Assistant Vice President and Head of South Luzon and Government Relationship Business Group, and PLDT Relationship Manager Kathy Bravo, paid a visit to the college recently, to sign the contract for I-Gate and PLDT VMF.

"Maraming salamat for giving us this opportunity," quipped Renato Constantia. "We are proud to have this contract with your school."

"The feeling is mutual," was SPCBA Chief Administrator Jowell Ching's gracious reply. The contract signing took place right in the heart of the busy summer session at the college, with many denim-clad students lining up for enrollment, looking through the glass walls at the men in suits and hoping. Benefactor technology again becomes one generation's gift to another.

Top Notcher Legacy

SPCBA has approximately 3,000 students currently enrolled in various courses. Many of its Accounting graduates score at the top of CPA Board examinations. Founded in 1986 by Jowell's grandfather Chong Eng Teng, it offers a full range of degrees and certificate courses in computer sciences and business, as well as degrees in Psychology, Tourism, and Engineering.

Deserving students receive the Chong Eng Teng scholarship, journalism, sports, and student assistantship scholarships, all in keeping with the mission of providing quality affordable education to all.

The SPCBA environment encourages learning, with fully air-conditioned classrooms and facilities, and a library stacked with a wide range of books, research materials, and of course, the indispensable high speed internet connection. With PLDT I-Gate up and running on the campus in time for the opening of classes in June, Mr. Ching hopes to bring even greater world-class service to the student population.

"We believe that PLDT can provide SPCBA with the best service," Jowell Ching says. He signified interest in getting more PLDT solutions for SPCBA.

PLDT provides the premier business school in the South with all the necessary network connectivity hardware and support, including servers, and the Local Area Network (LAN) components with VMF. Students and faculty will enjoy a much greater bandwidth capacity and speed, as managed, end-to-end service from PLDT.

San Pedro College of Business Administration has been producing topnotch graduates in Accounting and other degree courses. Now with PLDT I-Gate, the school benefits from faster Internet connectivity.

Present during the contract signing are: PLDT Capability Management Specialist Lito Castro, PLDT Relationship Manager Kathy Bravo, PLDT Assistant Vice President and Head of South Luzon and Government Relationship Business Group Anton Lim, PLDT Vice President and Head of Corporate Relationship Management Renato Constantia, SPCBA Chief Administrator Jowell Jo Ching, SPCBA Director for Placement & Linkages Office Reston Johnson Ching, and SPCBA Chief Financial Officer Sarah Claire Ching-Legaspi

PAL sees clearer skies ahead as recovery holds

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines (PAL) is seeing clearer skies ahead as a result of a mostly albeit modest, recovery in the local and international aviation markets.

PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista said the company has experienced a slight rebound, in line with the recovery of airlines around the world as a result of the improvement in global economic prospects.

The resulting improvement in the company's cash flow, Bautista said, helped PAL repay $44.5 million in loans that matured last month.

"We were able to pay that entire amount because we have implemented a lot of initiatives to raise cash and reduce costs," he told reporters.

"The projection of the industry is a loss (2010 and 2011). We are seeing a semblance of the market moving toward that direction," Bautista said.

But he said the Lucio Tan-led firm would remain cautious due to the several challenges the listed airline industry continued to face.

"We don't want to call it a full recovery. We still have a lot of problems. There is the category 2 status and the European blacklist," he said.

Bautista was referring to the US Federal Aviation Authority's downgrade of the Philippines to category 2 status due to concerns over the country's air safety standards. The downgrade bars Philippine carriers from expanding operations in the United States, which only affects PAL, being the only airline that flies to North America.

The European Union has also put the Philippines on a blacklist of countries whose airlines are banned from flying to the continent due to poor safety procedures.

"Although the market is improving, we still have to look for ways to cut costs and boost revenues," Bautista said.

One way the company plans to reduce expenses is by sub-contracting to non-core tasks, including catering and airport services, to third party providers.

The labor department earlier ruled the controversial move, which will affect close to 1,000 employees, as a legal exercise of management prerogative. PAL workers have appealed the decision.

PAL posted a $10.2 million net loss in the April-December period of 2009, which is the first three quarters of the company's fiscal year. Bautista said PAL would release its full-year financial results this week.

A PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) plane takes off from Manila.

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BUSINESS

FirstPac raises $300M via MPIC-backed bond issue

Part of group's refinancing, debt management plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST PACIFIC Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, a regional conglomerate heavily invested in the Philippines, has raised $300 million from a fresh bond issue secured by shares of local infrastructure firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

In a statement issued late Friday, First Pacific said the seven-year senior guaranteed secured bonds carried a coupon rate of 7.875 percent and was double the average maturity of the company's borrowings. The issue was 5.8 times oversubscribed, a vote of confidence in the group's credit worthiness.

First Pacific said the new bond issue was part of the group's refinancing and overall debt management program. "The net proceeds from the bonds will be used for the repayment of borrowings. The bond issue will enable the company to accomplish a variety of goals, including diversifying its sources of funding and smoothing out its debt maturity profile," it said.

The bonds are secured by shares of MPIC and guaranteed by the local infrastructure holding and management company with assets ranging from water distribution to toll roads, electricity distribution and healthcare.

At a fixed-rate offering, the issue also enhances First Pacific's interest rate risk management, reducing its floating-rate borrowings to 35 percent of the total from 65 percent.

"This bond offering helps First Pacific rebalance its profile in the international credit markets as a strong and diversified borrower," said First Pacific managing director and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan. "It also provides us with a smoother debt maturity profile."

Credit Agricole CIB is the sole bookrunner and lead manager while CLSA Exchange Capital Inc. and First Metro Investment Corp. are domestic managers in the Philippines for this transaction.

First Pacific is the controlling stockholder of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manila Electric Co. and Philex Mining Corp.

The bond is the latest in a series of capital market transactions of First Pacific over the past decade and a half. In 1997, First Pacific issued $350 million worth of convertible bonds. This was followed in 2003 with the issuance of seven bonds worth $135 million and the issuance of an exchangeable notes worth $199 million in 2005. All issues were redeemed, exchanged or converted when they fell due.

Toyota sales hit record high

By Abigail L. Ho

TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines Inc. (TMP), the country's largest car maker, sold 3,096 units in June, its highest single-month sales figure so far in 2010.

According to the company, its strong performance was driven mainly by huge sales of both its passenger car and commercial vehicle offerings.

Sales of its best-selling Vios subcompact sedan reached 1,302 units in June, giving the model a 47.7-percent share of its market.

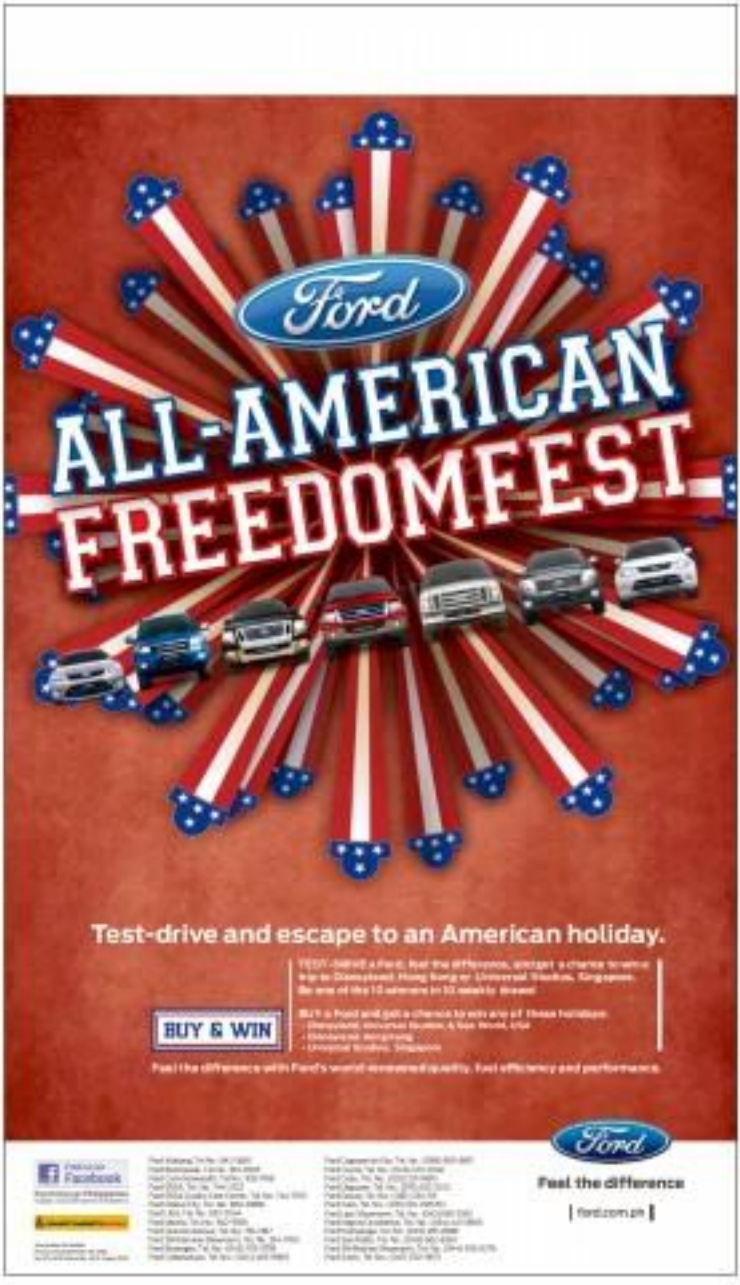
For the first semester, Vios sales hit 6,900 units, still short of the company's 1,500-units-a-month target for the model this year.

In an earlier interview, TMP president Michitoshi Sugata said that from average sales of 1,000 units a month last year, sales of the Vios could increase to 1,500 units a month this year, especially with the introduction of the automatic transmission variant of the Vios' 1.3-liter displacement model in April.

The latest data from TMP showed that the company's refreshed Vios line accounted for 77 percent of its total passenger car sales in the first half.

TMP's other passenger car offerings, the

TOYOTA B2



BPI forecasts P9.6B in net profit this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANK OF the Philippine Islands expects to chalk up P9.6 billion in net profit this year, up 13 percent from a year ago, alongside a projected hurtle economic growth this year.

Based on documents submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BPI's net income forecast assumed that domestic economic growth would accelerate to at least 3.5 percent this year while the inflation rate would only pick up slightly to about 4 percent this year.

The bank's outlook also assumed that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would keep its key overnight borrowing rate steady at 4 percent despite reversing some of the liquidity-boosting measures introduced at the height of the global financial crisis.

BPI last year booked P6.51 billion

13% growth from 2009

in net income attributable to equity holders.

For this year, the bank's projected higher profit of P9.6 billion attributable to equity holders of parent it sees translating to a return on equity of 12.9 percent.

The profitability is seen being supported by P35.5 billion in net interest income. Net interest margin on earning assets is assumed to average 3.7 percent.

Expenses, including loan loss provisioning requirement, is expected to be relatively flat against last year. The bank has budgeted P12.3 billion in impairment losses alongside P4.8.3 billion in other expenses for this year.

The bank expects to spend 36 centavos for every peso of booked earnings.

Total assets of the country's third biggest bank were assumed to end at P926.97 billion this year, of which net loans were seen to account for P553.67 billion and investments for P268.8 billion.

Total capital is projected at P92 billion. It expects P9.6 billion in net proceeds from a stock rights offering slated next year. After each of listing, the capital adequacy ratio is estimated to hit 16.4 percent.

The forward-looking projections were disclosed by BPI in line with an upcoming stock rights offering. The P60 billion equivalent BPI plan to list new shares to secure a P5.6 billion stock offering to existing shareholders.

Political ads boost GMA 7 profit

LOCAL BROADCASTING giant GMA Network Inc. is halfway past its P3 billion full-year net profit target in the first five months due to a stronger-than-expected rise in political advertising ahead of the pres. election.

GMA chair and president Felipe Gozon said on Friday that the company's net profit from January to May surged 44 percent compared to a year ago. He added that the company attained "more than half" of its P3 billion bottom line goal in the first five months due to the surge in advocacy advertising.

In the second half, however, Gozon said such political spending would no longer be there to buoy revenues. "We're on our own," he told company employees during a general assembly.

But he expressed confidence that with the company's strong ratings and the buffer built up during the first half, GMA was on track to meet its full-year targets.

The P3-billion profit goal set for this year is 28 percent ahead of last year's actual net income.

Even without political advertising, Gozon said the post-election surge in business confidence should translate to a good revenue stream for GMA 7, adding that there was strong demand for advertising space across all sectors.

"Some hold off because of the elections, due to the clutter. There was nowhere to place their ads in because once you have sold a minute of television, you can't produce more. It's unlike ours that you can produce as many as you can," Gozon said.

To boost its election coverage, Gozon estimated that the network spent about P600 million to upgrade equipment. "But this isn't just for the election coverage as the equipment upgrade had long been planned," Gozon said.

On the non-news headroom, Gozon said GMA 7 exceeded its targeted rise in subscription but because of the sharp peso rise against the dollar, the peso equivalent of those earnings was slower than expected.

Nevertheless, he said the overseas business was a major area for growth given the large population of Filipinos overseas and seeking television content from home. "We haven't exploited it," he said.

The company's television programs are distributed outside the Philippines through its subscription-based international channels—GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV—and through GMA WorldWide (Philippines) Inc.

Its overseas operations used to be heavily restricted to direct-to-home TV but it recently broke the barrier to content distribution through satellite infrastructure. This also marked the company's diversification from Metro Manila-centered free TV ad revenue sales.

Gozon said GMA would like to expand in the Middle East, which the company only serves with satellite TV. The target is to distribute content through cable in the Middle East.

"We have also had the penetrated Europe. The big market is the US but even in the US, we're not yet all over the place," Gozon said, saying that a monthly subscription price of $5 to $10 was very affordable for Filipinos.

GMA 7 held a special recognition ceremony for its service awardees during the company's quarterly general assembly last Friday. The event was also part of GMA Network's 60th anniversary celebration this year. Doris C. Dumlao

Disclosures

PHILIPPINE Realty and Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 30, 4:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse Ayalaland Corporate Estates Dalton corner N. Domingo Street, San Juan. Guests City. Stockholders of record as of June 30 shall be entitled to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

PHOENIX Petroleum Philippines Inc. has elected the following as members of the board of directors: Dominique T. Ay, Dennis A. Ayala, Thomas B. de Guzman, Jr. Rogelio Pablico Jr., Commissioner Jose Antonio S. Pascua and Rhoderick V. Sandoval as independent directors.

* * *

ABOITIZ Power Corp. has disclosed the appointment of Jeanne dela Buena as assistant vice president for regulatory affairs, Beatrice F. Mirasol as assistant vice president for business development, and Maria P. Batnag as assistant vice president for trading.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of the **Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.** has approved the appointment of Atty. Ma. Teresa M. Bautista as general counsel and officer-in-charge of the issuer regulation division, replacing Jose A. Bolasa.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. disclosed on July 9 the retirement of Leopoldo Sze as the company's compliance officer and the appointment of Lolgarda G. Sandoval as his replacement.

* * *

ISM'TACH Equities Inc. has disclosed the buyback of 978,000 shares at P3.80 a share on July 13 and the buyback of 600,000 shares at P3.40 a share on July 16, in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

METRO Pacific Investments Corp. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from July 23 to Aug. 24. The record date for the said meeting is July 23.

* * *

ASIATEL (Philippines) Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. at the Coral Ballroom 2, 2nd Floor, Manila Pavilion Hotel, UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. Stockholders of record as of July 5 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting.

Compiled by Ingrid Ann Ascasio

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K-Water still keen on hydro power plant

Firm willing to invest up to $400M

By Amy R. Borja

DESPITE A legal tussle over a power plant acquisition, Korea Water Resources Corp. (K-Water), the leading water resources and power firm in South Korea, said it was still willing to invest as much as $400 million (roughly P18 billion) to a 110-megawatt hydropower plant in Benguet.

Through Cordillera Hydro Electric Power Corp. (Cohecor), K-Water will put up the power facilities in areas in the municipalities of Bangued and Tineg, and Lets Heavro Kits, chief executive officer of Cohecor.

Kits said the business that the project would be implemented in phases. The first 58 MW will be an stream after three years.

The company hopes to start construction this year, after receiving the go-ahead from the Department of Energy and Intl. Justice Agustin, division for business development at Cohecor.

According to Agustin, Assistant Energy Secretary Maria Mariaquin gave orders for Cohecor to proceed with the conduct of all necessary activities to construct the power plant, despite the objections of certain groups. He stressed that the DOE is bound to honor the commitments and contractual obligation to Cohecor as stated under the renewable energy service contract awarded to the company on Feb. 1.

Hyjin Chang, K-Water manager for international business department, earlier told the business that this was just one of the several hydropower projects that the company was pursuing in Luzon and the Visayas. He declined to name the other projects to protect the company's interests.

Chang said the company was still assessing the viability of these projects and determining the technology that would be used.

Investments in hydropower projects such as these are encouraged by the DOE in line with its efforts to increase the electricity generated from renewable energy sources—including geothermal, wind, solar, biomass and ocean, and in remote Philippine energy security.

K-Water remains bullish on this hydropower sector, despite the objections it faced over its planned acquisition of the 246-MW Angat hydroelectric power plant in Bulacan.

In April this year, the Korean utility entered the highest bid of $440.8 million for the power plant in an auction held by Strategic Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM). The sale was part of the government's plan to dispose all its power generation assets.

However, a number of cause-oriented groups questioned the legality of K-Water's participation in the bidding since it was a wholly foreign-state owned corporation.

Angat Dam is currently the single most important water source of Metro Manila as it provides 97 percent of the water needs of at least 12 million residents of the country's capital. The dam also irrigates some 31,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

DBP, Singapore firm sign deal on emission reduction credits

By Amy R. Borja

STATE-RUN Development Bank of the Philippines recently signed an agreement with Temasek CapBon Asset Management Pte. Ltd. of Singapore for the sale of certified emission reduction (CER) credits to be generated by three local mini-hydropower plants.

In a statement, the DBP said the emission reduction purchase agreement was "a major step in the bank's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities and a underlines its key role in the global Climate Change Program initiative."

According to DBP, it will purchase the CERs to be generated from three mini-hydropower projects such as the Caramoan power plant, owned and operated by Bonbilon Electric Cooperative; the Hinchinan mini-hydropower facility owned and operated by the municipality of Loreto, Dinagat Island, and the Iloilo mini-hydro power plant owned and operated by Iloilo Electric Cooperative (Ilelectric), with the municipality of Sevilla, Bohol, as co-owner.

These three power projects, which were funded by the bank, are expected to reduce emission of about 131,000 tons of carbon dioxide during the first seven-year crediting period.

The emission reduction purchase agreement was facilitated by CarbonAdd Ltd. of London, which DBP tapped in 2008 as financial manager and agent, in the sale of carbon credits of the three projects, the bank added. DBP said it was working on the registration of the projects with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change CDM executive board in Bonn, Germany.

The CDM is an arrangement under the Kyoto Protocol, which allows industrialized countries with greenhouse gas reduction commitment to invest in initiatives that lessen emissions in developing countries as an alternative to more costly emission reduction measures.

Under the CDM, project owners may profit from the sale of carbon emission reduction credits arising from their projects.

Fund managers pick ING, Deutsche Regis

ING AXIS Deutsche Regis Partners are the top picks of Philippine funds in the Category 1 income and equities trading requirements, based on the 7th annual survey of the Fund Managers Association of the Philippines.

During the awarding ceremonies Thursday, ING Axis upset Jaggaci the Best Fixed Income award while Deutsche Regis won the Best Equities House for the fourth consecutive year.

The awards were based on the latest annual poll conducted by FMAP—whose primary goal is to foster the development of the Philippine capital market—to recognize top fixed income specialist and equities brokers for their excellent performance.

FMAP led by its president Theresa Mataid-Javier who is also senior vice president in Bank of the Philippine Islands, has 150 individual members and 43 institutional members including banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, pension funds, offshore and domestic corporations. Boris C. Dimber

Toyota sales hit record high

From page B1

40s and the Camry, were likewise leaders in their respective sub-segments.

In the compact sedan subsegment, the 40s cornered a 27.5-percent share of the market in June, on sales of 344 units. The Camry, on the other hand, held a 55-percent share of the midsize sedan market as of last month.

Overall, TMP sold 1,933 passenger cars in June and 9,710 units in the first semester.

TMP also registered a strong performance in the commercial vehicle category, selling a total of 3,163 units in June alone and 16,748 units in the first half.

The multi-purpose Innova sold 1,264 units in June, making it TMP's second highest selling vehicle model during the period.

TMP aimed to sell 18,000 vehicles this year, 8.2 percent more than the 46,191 units it sold in 2009. The company end-of 2009 with a market share of 34.9 percent.

Local flour millers buck EO on zero-tariff wheat

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil) is opposing another extension of an executive order pegging the duty-on wheat imports to zero.

In a statement issued over the weekend, the group said the government's main objective of reducing bread prices had not been met by the previous incumbents of the EO.

Further extending the zero-tariff regime on milling wheat, therefore, would just result in huge forgone government revenue, Pafmil said.

Using 2009 import figures, the group said it has had the 3-percent import duty on milling wheat been in place, the government would have garnered about P1 billion in revenue.

"Collecting this amount can help reduce the budget deficit and allow the government some leeway in implementing programs that directly benefit the citizenry," the group said.

Pafmil called on the government to revert to the 3-percent tariff regime instead of "recklessly" using revenue on something that was not accomplishing its primary objective, "as what had happened in the last 11 months."

"When the government removed the duty on milling wheat imports, it had the laudable objective of lowering the price of bread to benefit the consumers. Sadly, however, this objective was not realized as bread prices remained high despite much lower flour prices," the group said.

Gilda Department of Trade and Industry records, Pafmil said, that while the ex-mill price of flour had dropped to P546.07 (c)

per 25-kilogram bag, the price of a 600-gram loaf bread in supermarkets remained P55.00.

This price was even higher than the P50 per loaf recorded in May 2008 when the ex-mill price of flour was at P960.0986 per bag, the group added.

The DTI should survey bread prices in supermarkets to realize that bread prices are beyond the reach of ordinary consumers. While flour prices have gone down, bread prices remained high," it further said.

Malacañang issued EO 765 in November 2008, slashing the duty on milling wheat and food wheat imports from three percent to zero.

While the six-month expiration of the July last year, then President Arroyo issued EO 838, extending for another six months the duty-free importation of milling wheat.

Pag-IBIG eyes retail bond issuance worth ₱3B in '11

By Recent W. Domingo

Move aimed at meeting demand from OFWs

THE HOME Development Mutual Fund is considering the issuance in 2011 of at least P3 billion worth of retail bonds to address demand for savings packages among overseas Filipinos, according to the state agency.

Officials of the HDMF, which is also known as Pag-IBIG Fund, has unchecked earlier their asset on a series of "housing bills" in countries and territories where there were sizeable Filipino communities including Singapore, Hong Kong and some cities in Europe.

Emma Linda Ibera, Pag-IBIG deputy chief executive, told reporters the fund showed that there was a "chance for a savings program that would allow OFWs to save in the Fund, especially those with high net worth."

Ibera said that OFWs who took part in the fund indicated preference for putting in larger amounts of money as Pag-IBIG units from the usual monthly contributions.

That way, "they get return on their savings and, at the same time, participate in the country's housing program," she said.

"We are looking at an issue of at least P3 billion but it could be higher depending on the demand," Ibera added.

She explained that the planned issue would not be a new investor for Pag-IBIG, with previous floats already done in 2009 and 2010...each worth P3 billion.

The official said the 2011 bonds would be free of tax, will have a term of five years and yield of 5 percent, the same interest rate for the 2009 Series Pag-IBIG bonds.

Also, Ibera said a special feature of the retail bonds issued previously was a raffle where every P1,000 worth of investments in the housing bonds entitled the bondholder to a chance to win a house and lot worth P1 million.

"This is a feature that we want included in the proposed savings program next year," the official said.

Ibera said the borrowings would beef up Pag-IBIG's loan funds to make the agency's borrowings pay for themselves.

Pag-IBIG needs to repay in 2011-P12 billion worth of bonds and another batch worth P6 billion in 2014. The amount represents five-year debt paper issued earlier this year and another issued last year respectively.

Expansion of rubber production pushed

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture's high value commercial crops program (HVCC) seeks to expand rubber production and entice more foreign investors by opening up new areas in Palawan.

HVCC program director Rene Rafael Espino told reporters that the department was targeting a 9-percent growth in production to keep up with local and global demand. Espino said the department was looking at additional 20,000 to 30,000 hectares of property for rubber.

A plantation of this size is ideal for one large investor who may spend P2,000 to P3,000 per hectare for a complete production cycle—from planting rubber to processing the sap into rubber sheets, he said.

The Philippines produced 407,648 metric tons of rubber in 2009, down 0.63 percent from 411,240 tons in 2008. This followed a 1.72-percent increase between the 2008 output and the 404,070 tons in 2007.

The DA attributed the decrease in rubber production in 2009 to softening demand and drop in prices in the world market. Globally, analysts said that overseas investment decreased in the manufacturing industry.

The low demand resulted in lesser tapping reported in Agusan del Sur, Compostela Valley and Davao City, which are major rubber producers.

There were also reports of lower size of hectarage of rubber farms in Zamboanga del Sur and a reduced number of nursery trees was noted in Zamboanga del Norte.

In terms of planted area, some 128,000 hectares were planted to rubber in 2009, up from 123,000 in 2008 and 111,000 in 2007. But production is expected to pick up again as demand recovers in markets coming out of recession.

Sale of smaller state assets this year planned

THE GOVERNMENT is readying the sale of smaller state assets as Malacañang reviews the privatization plan for three big Cabinet-level land banks set up for sale since 2009, according to its finance official.

The big-ticket assets include portion of Nasi Terminal Inc., complex in Taguig City PHIVOLCS-Phreatomet Corp.'s share in the Mindoro-Nido natural gas field, and the Pagbilao property in Japan.

The government was hoping to raise P30 billion from these assets.

Finance Undersecretary Cesareo Legaspi told reporters that the state's privatization program had been submitted down to P2 billion considering that these are no ultra-small assets.

"We have to sell small-sized, immovable properties to help fund the budget deficit at P325 billion," Legaspi said.

The small assets of these were pieces of property in Baguio City, Makati and Pasay.

Legaspi some of these low-scale assets responsibilities by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, while others were turned over to the Privatization Management Office by Philippine National Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines.

He said these lists represented an initial batch of properties that would be sold this year, with the others yet to be be appraised.

As for the big-ticket assets, Legaspi said the new administration would retrieve them, particularly the agencies that got the go-ahead for their privatization.

Aside from the Department of Finance, these agencies include the Department of Justice, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Trade and Industry and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Legaspi said that since the three big assets were on hold, the government had to turn to assets that might smaller in value but easier to dispose of.

Last week, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said government economic managers had raised further the budget deficit program for 2010 to P325 billion from P300 billion to provide for further expansion of the economic economy. —Recent W. Domingo

BUSINESS

Construction projects surged 59.5% in Q1

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE VALUE of private-sector construction projects in the first quarter of 2010 jumped 59.5 percent year-on-year to P97.3 billion, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO data also showed that the value of newly built residential and nonresidential structures, including additions and repairs, from January to March was 38.1 percent higher than the P48.66 billion posted in the previous quarter.

The government hopes that the construction industry will continue to be a major growth driver, as it had in 2009, to shore up growth and keep the country on track toward full recovery from the global financial crisis.

Based on the number of approved building permits, first quarter private construction projects surged by 8.9 percent year-on-year to 28,990 permits.

But compared to the fourth quarter, the number of approved permits dipped by 18.6 percent from 30,499.

Residential projects grew in both value and number, increasing by 24.6 percent to P21.2 billion and by 20.3 percent to 22,986 permits.

With a total floor area of 2.6 million square meters, residential buildings chalked up an average cost of P8,126 per square meter.

Single-type units continued to make up the most number of residential building projects with 17,501 approved permits, almost three-fourths of the total for residences.

Single-type units accounted for P12.5 billion, covering a floor area of 1.7 million sq.m. at an average cost of P7,467 per sq.m.

Apartments and townhouses made up the second biggest batch with 3,398 approved permits, about a quarter of all residential projects in the fourth quarter.

These projects were valued at an estimated P1.1 billion with a total floor area of 446,000 sq.m., at an average cost of P6,914 per sq.m.

Nonresidential projects registered a total value P22.2 billion—an increase of 130 percent over the same quarter of 2009.

At 2.4 million sq.m built, the average cost of nonresidential projects reached P9,471 per sq.m.

Of these, commercial buildings accounted for P10.6 billion which, at 1.3 million sq.m built, cost P11,308 per sq.m.

Institutional buildings represented P3.4 billion in construction spending, while agricultural structures chalked up P269 million.

Extelcom hits Bayan, MTI teamup

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A LOCAL phone firm has accused two of its rivals of teaming up to increase their chances of winning the last third-generation (3G) frequency the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is trying to bid out.

Liquid-led Bayan Telecommunications Inc. has been accused of forging an agreement with Malaysia-based Telekom Inc. (MTI), a subsidiary of listed A. Soriano Corp., to share the country's last 3G frequency (2 niches of the two-wide the NTC auction.

Local phone firm Express Telecommunications Inc. (Extelcom) in a statement said Bayan and MTI had entered into a "mutual understanding" concerning a "proposed service of transactions for a wide-area voice, video, data and content mobile service using available technologies, such as, but not limited to, 3G."

All three firms are vying for the country's last 3G frequency, which allows companies to offer high-value services like mobile broadband Internet, that the NTC has yet to award.

MTI and Bayan were among the original applicants that joined the auction for the country's five available 3G slots in 2005. Slots were awarded to Smart Communications, Globe Telecom, Digital Mobile Philippines and Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise.

All other applicants, the NTC said, failed to meet the regulator's strict requirements for financial capability and technical capacities in roll out a nationwide 3G network.

Earlier this year, the NTC said it would reopen the bidding for the last 3G slot. Under the new auction rules, companies that already have 3G slots will be allowed to bid for the remaining one—a provision that both MTI and Bayan opposed.

MTI and Bayan both claim that the last 3G slot should have gone to them. Both

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BUSINESS *Monday*

IMF turns over a new leaf

By Michelle V. Remo

DAEJON, SOUTH KOREA—The crippling financial crisis in Asia more than a decade ago was said to have ruined from bad to worse because the governments in the region were forced to adopt the wrong foreign policies.

These policies were mostly pushed by the International Monetary Fund. As a result, the IMF took a beating from those it only meant to help.

Since then, the IMF has been making amends with Asian countries like the Philippines.

Aware of the bad image it incurred at the height of the crisis in the late 1990s, the IMF now says it wants to mend its relationship with Asia.

Its managing director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, tells Asian journalists in a press conference here that the IMF is acknowledging its faults and is taking a new approach toward dealing with countries in this part of the globe.

He says policies pushed by the IMF during the crisis last decade were indeed aware for many economies, and that the institution could have entered recommended measures that could have been less painful.

"For many reasons, some fair and some unfair, Asians were upset by the way the Fund worked 12 years ago. We (IMF) want to reverse our relation with Asia," Strauss-Kahn says.

Dominated by the West

Moreover, Strauss-Kahn says the IMF wants to finally address the Asian perception that the institution is mainly managed by people from the United States and Europe, has not provided developing countries a sufficient voice in its decision-making.

"We want Asian countries to feel at home with the IMF, and for all of us to move beyond the memories of the Asian crisis," he says.

The Asian financial crisis wiped out the economic gains of the Philippines and neighboring countries in the preceding years. This led the IMF to impose measures that were described to be too severe for some economies to bear. Asian countries implemented the measures in exchange for financial support.

The measures included budget tightening, which some considered for having reduced resources for social services, and financial liberalization, which resulted in the influx of large sums that went to speculative activities that, in turn, dragged down Asian currencies.

Strauss-Kahn says one of the things the IMF intends to do to repair its relations with Asia is to increase the region's quota shares, which determines voting rights, in the institution.

By January 2011, he says, the IMF will shift 5 percent of the quota shares from Western countries to developing countries, mostly in Asia.

Currently, the United States has 17 percent quota shares, while the entire 128 economies have 71 percent.

Quota shares are supposedly determined largely by economic size. Strauss-Kahn agrees that in the current setup, European economies are over-represented to the IMF and Asian countries are under-represented. But he notes that Asia has recently been growing faster than the global average.

"Asia is now the driver of the global economy and it is just proper for it to have more role in the operation of of global institution like the IMF," Strauss-Kahn says.

Japan's from increasing quota shares, and therefore voting rights, of Asian countries, the IMF likewise wants more Asians to form part of the IMF's staff and top management, Strauss-Kahn says.

"We want to have more room for people from the Philippines and neighboring countries," Strauss-Kahn says in response to this reporter's question on the implications of the IMF's new policy for the Philippines and other countries in the region.

Moreover, he says, the IMF wants developing countries like the Philippines to play a more active role in the institution by voicing its views on the way the institution is managed or its direction.

But as expected, developing countries are not just enthusiastic about the IMF's new policy. Some countries believe the IMF can offer much more than what it is currently offering.

Developing countries that are part of BRIC—Brazil, Russia, India, and China—as well as the Philippines believe that the 5 percent shift of IMF quota shares from industrialized to developing economies is not enough.

But the IMF to be fair, most quota shares must be shifted from industrialized countries to the West, the developing countries say.

Robust Asia

In an earlier press briefing, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. has said that most economies in Asia, including the Philippines, have proved to be robust over the past few years. This was further highlighted by their performances at the height of the global economic crisis last year.

Asia's growth in recent years was mainly driven by China and India. In the case of the Philippines, it managed to grow by 7.1 percent in 2007. At around the same time, most economies in the West contracted.

BRIC economies are more exact about the increase in quota shares of developing economies, stressing that the move has been long overdue.

The Philippines currently accounts for about 0.6- to 0.7 percent share in the total voting rights of the IMF.

"We (the Philippines) want a shift of more than 5 percent. A shift of 7 percent is preferable. Nonetheless, if 5 percent is one that is going to be implemented, that will already be a good start," Tetangco says.

New disposition

Meanwhile, some policymakers are surprised by the new disposition of the IMF.

"It feels like some fresh wind blowing from Washington, DC," says BSP deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo, referring to the place where the IMF is based. "It is a welcome change considering that the Fund was considered to be a big part of the problem rather than of the solution during the Asian financial crisis."

In an e-mail to the Inquirer, Guinigundo also says that the IMF is changing its tune, considering he describes as a welcome development.

"It looks like it is finally learning important lessons in humility and flexibility. Humility because the Fund cannot pretend to know it all. Flexibility because its one-size-fits-all framework can surely deliver in certain cases but not in others. Ownership because it is only prudent to let countries own the policies that they will be implementing," he says.

Guinigundo says the BSP finds the IMF's former accomplishable.

"The Fund's new tulips is accepted. Now we can package approach the negotiating table as partners. They are learn from it as much as we can learn from them," Guinigundo says.

However, the deputy governor stresses that giving more voting rights to Asian countries should not be seen as an act of philanthropy by the IMF. He says the countries deserve to have more say in the IMF given its achievements in terms of raising inflation, boosting consumer growth, and beefing up their foreign exchange reserves.

Moving forward

In the meantime, Strauss-Kahn says the IMF will change its approach in terms of recommending policies to member countries in times of financial assistance from the IMF.

He says that, learning from past mistakes, the IMF now intends to be more careful in its policy recommendations, making sure these are streamlined.

Caroline Atkinson of the IMF's external relations explains that a streamlined policy recommendation is one that is focused only on the main problem of a member country and one that veers away from a whole set of reforms that covers, say budget spending, that will hurt the poor.

She says the IMF has understood that reforms to be implemented in order to guarantee should not aggravate the plight of the poor.

"At the end of the day reforms should be owned by the people, Atkinson says.

Strauss-Kahn says the IMF is hoping that Asia will respond positively to its call by accepting the institution's offer of more friendly ties.

"We have learned from the crisis in Asia, we understood all the consequences of [our policy recommendations]. But part is past, and we need to look together to move forward," Strauss-Kahn says.

We want Asian countries to feel at home with the IMF and for all of us to move beyond the memories of the Asian crisis'

Fleshing out the broad strokes

Add the fact that most lands in industrialized countries are now producing close to their theoretical potential, future increases in production will have to come from additional lands to be put into cultivation.

But with 50 percent of our irrigable lands still un-irrigated and the cost of the irrigation systems in various state of disrepair, we cannot hope to be self-sufficient. Without water, inputs of hybrid seed varieties and fertilizer will be wasted. Inherently, RA 6978, approved in 1991, which mandated that the remaining 1.6 million hectares be irrigated within 10 years, remains unimplemented.

It is not for lack of trying. Engineering researches will first locate land for their own populations, and if ever they report size, there would be a spike in price again. Clearly, the Organization of Fire Exporting Countries (Ofec), patterned after Opec, does not augur well for the Philippines, because this is the Philippines.

Revenue collections

Again, a circumstance. We have a tax effort ratio of 13 percent, a projected fiscal deficit of up to P150 billion, and declining revenue collections. The finance of Internal Revenue at 8.3 percent, and the Bureau of Customs at 16.6 percent.

No doubt, we have to increase our tax effort ratio if we have to enhance our fiscal deficit without making taxes, while broadening our social development expenditures. But the poor BOC performance is further threatened with the creation of more free ports. Unfortunately, following the recent approval of two free ports, Secretary Cesar Purisima is now confronted with more than one dozen bills, creating five ports that will pounds ladies, some as large as entire provinces, in the customs territory. If passed, we might as well declare the entire country a free port.

Unlike the 233 privately funded Special Economic Zones under the supervision of PEZA that had attracted $1 billion worth of investments in date, only 8 ventures is proposed P2.5 billion.

And while the PEZA-administered zones give duty and sales tax importation privileges only for capital equipment and supplies (which do not have ready market in the customs territory), free ports allow duty and tax-free items of even consumer goods, such as oil, cigarettes, liquor, etc. That renders customs administration difficult.

OFWs needs

Because of OFW remittances, now at $19 billion a year, we have a surplus in our current account ($4 billion) and a growing gross international reserve ($35 billion).

"But the sad story is that most OFWs will come home with nothing to show for their many years of sacrifices in foreign lands, save, perhaps, a new or improved house, a tricycle or a beauty parlor. And while they are able to support their children in school, their education is not assured because the absence of a central parents and lack of parental guidance tend to produce broken homes and wayward children.

A concerned citizen, Marcelo Tenaza, suggested that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas set up a high-yielding special dollar deposit account (SDDA) facility for OFW families. In reality, at least savings cost of the OFW remittances and prevent the use of the saved amounts in inflationary consumption expenditures. BSP should pay as much as 6 percent to 10 percent interest rate on deposits in the SDDA facility.

To finance the interest cost of maintaining the SDDA facility, the BSP should disincentivize or drastically reduce its present P805 billion Special Deposit Accounts (SDA) facility for the banks' otherwise loanable funds, then use part of the resulting interest-expense savings in paying the interest expense on the new SDDA facility. Other academic and investment bankers urge the BSP to reduce the 4 percent interest rate on SDAs to encourage banks to lend more of their funds, instead of parking their money with the BSP. Such move would be in line with a strategy that targets a growth rate double that the 5 percent seen in previous years.

The best way to confront the debt problem is to grow out of it.

Infrastructure development

We need not only quality infrastructure but also strategically planned infrastructure. The SCTEX was strategic in the sense that it created a runway between Subic's airport and Clark's airport that created a logistical hub.

What could be the next strategic infrastructure? Without doubt, it is not only the extensions but also the direct linkage between the NLEX and the SLEX via an elevated driveway along the railroad tracks. The project is a private initiative by the Philippine Belt Railway Corp. under a BOT scheme. Not only would motorists and strategists save valuable hours planning through the traffic on Edsa, but it would make possible the transfer of international airport to Clark.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author was a three-term representative of the first district of Batanes and former chief and administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. He is chair of the Board of the University of Nueva Caceres. Feedback at map@globalnet.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>.)

Transmission dev't seen to spur renewable energy

By Aliy R. Reiss

LOCAL WIND developers are urging the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) to put up the necessary transmission lines along the so-called wind corridors in the country to spur investments in the sector.

Under the proposed Philippine Wind Power Roadmap, wind developers want to assist NGCP in the long-term transmission development planning to connect wind power to the grid, said Vincent Pelves, chair of Metrobi Platforms and of renewable-energy firm Hermergy Philippine Holdings Corp.

In a recent presentation at the Asian Development Bank, Pelves said that the proposed roadmap would identify and list the potential points of a special transmission investment for NGCP to construct transmission towers to interconnect wind power projects to the grid.

According to the roadmap, the private sector should be actively involved in the planning process in order to encourage wind power projects in the Transmission and Distribution Development Plan for 2010 to 2014.

To facilitate easier interconnection of wind farms into the grid, the roadmap proposed to standardize a template interconnection agreement between NGCP and wind developers. Wind transmission issues are also proposed to be tackled in the Grid Code.

So far, the country only has the 33-MW Northwind project—the country's first commercial wind power facility in Bangui, Ilocos Norte.

Over the next few years, however, the recently formed Wind Energy Developers Association of the Philippines expects $3 billion in wind power investments. The proposed projects can potentially add 3,000 megawatts and generate over 11,000 individual jobs.

For its part, NGCP said it had begun studying crucial transmission projects that had been shelved during the previous administration.

Asean's top airline

CEBU PACIFIC was named Top South-east Asian Airline by the Changi Airport Group (CAG) as it registered the highest growth in passenger traffic among airlines in the region last year.

The award was announced during the 19th Annual Changi Airline Awards 2010 on April 13.

CEB flew about 375,000 passengers to and from Singapore in 2009, growing by 37 percent from the year-ago level. The airline flies from Singapore to Manila 21 times weekly and, starting Dec. 20, daily to Cebu and Clark.

For the Singapore to Manila or Cebu route, the lowest possible year-round "in-life" fare is SGD 126. For Clark, the minimal run on at SGD 89 to Clark. Those with check-in luggage will pay add SGD 9 upon booking.

"CEB is working to increase its operations aggressively in the Asian region, especially to Singapore, to serve popular Asian destinations from the Philippines. We are expecting delivery of more brand new planes until 2014, which can be used for our capacity expansion, frequency increases and new destinations," said CEB VP for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog.

Wind power firm turns to ADB for technical help

By Amy R. Remo

RENEWABLE ENERGY firm Abenergy Philippine Holdings Corp. is seeking technical assistance from Asian Development Bank for the company's proposed wind power projects in Luzon.

Documents from ADB showed that the proposed technical assistance worth $630,000 would cover part of the first phase of preparatory work for the construction of Abenergy's three wind power projects in Cagayan, Mindoro and Ilocos.

According to the Manila-based lender, the technical assistance will help the company produce site-specific feasibility studies, including wind assessment for each of the three proposed wind power plants.

The ADBoard expected to approve the assistance by next month.

"ADB recognizes that energy plays a vital role in economic growth and poverty reduction and is taking a prominent role in helping countries like the Philippines achieve energy security while mitigating growth of greenhouse gas emissions," the lender said. "As such, ADB is integrating climate change into planning and investment, to ensure consistency and growth in a sustainable manner. The proposed TA is in line with ADB's initiatives."

According to ADB, Abenergy's wind power projects are expected to result in improved energy security resulting from an increase in the use of renewable energy to meet the country's energy requirements.

It further said that Abenergy had already discussed the proposed wind projects with the Department of Energy and Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Max's targets Middle East, Australia

By Abigail L. Ho

HOMEGROWN FOOD chain Max's Restaurant plans to open open stores in the Middle East and Australia, to further expand its overseas presence and move beyond the North American market.

"We're in talks with some people there now. We hope to open branches in the Middle East and Australia by next year," said Max's president Robert Trota.

At the same time, Trota said the company, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary, planned to open another three to five stores in the next five months, both in local and foreign locations.

This would bring to 118 the number of new stores that the company will open this year, including the ones in California and Hawaii. A Max's Restaurant branch in New Jersey is scheduled to start serving the public in two to three weeks.

"We now have eight stores in the United States, and that number would reach 10 by the end of the year. There's demand for local menu in the United States, not only for Max's," Trota said.

But beyond the North American market, he said there was a lot of potential in the Middle East and Australia.

The latter, however, does not mean that the company would be abandoning its North American expansion plans.

"We're really concentrating on the US market. A lot of our customers are there now. It wouldn't make sense for us to open just one store in several different locations," he related. "So for Australia, we're looking at a bigger, broader market there, not just the Filipinos."

The company has 121 stores nationwide and in North America. Last year, it opened five new stores.

Trota said Max's targeted a sales growth of 12-14 percent this year, much faster than last year's growth of 7-8 percent.

"Overall, I think you could say that we're becoming lush. There's strong consumer confidence, low interest rates, and a lot of money coming in. We're starting to recover," he said.

OFFICIALS AND guests at Chinatrust Philippines (from left) Carlos Bulos, Joseph Shih, Alberto Villanueva, Wilken Su, Mark Chen and William Hsu participate in the ceremonial cutting of ribbon and candles during the opening of the bank's new head office at The Fort Legend Tower in Taguig City. Chinatrust Philippines is a subsidiary of the largest bank in Taiwan.

Gov't eyes 'rent to own' cages for fisherfolk

By Riza T. Olchondra

FISHERFOLK MAY soon be able to own the fish cages they are tending to as the government is looking at ways to allow the rural poor to rent fish cages on the guise of ownership.

"We are still firming up details. For example, whether fisherfolk should be organized into cooperatives or if individuals can avail themselves of the rent-to-own scheme. From local governments or whoever owns the fish cages they want to buy," said Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala.

He added that there has to be a standard for determining who can qualify for the rent-to-own scheme.

"We have to set the income bracket, for example. We don't want rich people abusing the system. And there has to be training on maintenance and keeping their operation sustainable," Alcala said.

Alcala said that the "rent-to-own" program is only one of many innovations that he wants to institute during his term.

Fisheries as a sub-sector saw declines in sea catches, but production still increased through mariculture.

Alcala said, however, that the only way to upgrade maritime and to sustain that industry is by giving higher incomes is to improve the way they get government support.

"Government, through this new to-own scheme, can empower fisherfolk. They will work harder and will produce more if they have a sense of ownership in their operation," Alcala said.

Fisheries, which contributed 24.84 percent of overall agricultural production in the first quarter, dropped 3.5 percent to 290,846 tons from 300,360 tons.

Extelcom hits Bayan, MTI teamup

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companies have asked the Court of Appeals to order the NTC to stick with its old rules that say that companies may only own one 3G frequency.

"There is more than meets the eye in MTI's abstinent insistence to stick to the old 2G award process," Extelcom said.

Extelcom claimed that Bayan and MTI have entered into a co-branding and revenue-sharing agreement, under which all assets and operations of Bayan would be consolidated under MTI.

"Evidently, MTI had to resort to an ouse technique in describing the agreement in its attempt to hide the real nature of its relationship with Bayan, which is actually one of consolidation resulting in one entity with a dual personality, both of which are angling for the last remaining 3G frequency in two separate judicial proceedings," Extelcom said.

But Extelcom said that the co-branding agreement will violate the old 2005 rules' provision, barring "associate applicants" from bidding for the 3G slot as the same time.

Entering into such an agreement was especially questionable for Bayan, which is currently under corporate rehabilitation.

Extelcom pointed out that even Bayan's evidence would have difficulty overcoming Bayan's assets, if necessary, because, under its agreement with MTI, its assets would all be consolidated in "an entity separate and distinct from Bayan."

Bayan spokesperson John V. Rojo dismissed Extelcom's accusations and denied any knowledge of such an agreement with MTI.

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US acts on bank overhaul but more work ahead

Obama to sign banking, consumer protection bill this week

WASHINGTON—In the end, it's only a beginning. The far-reaching new banking and consumer protection bill that President Barack Obama intends to sign on Wednesday now shifts from the politicians to the technocrats.

The legislation gives regulators latitude and time to come up with new rules, requires scores of studies and, in some instances, depends on international agreements falling into place.

For Wall Street, the next phase represents continuing uncertainty. It also offers banks and other financial institutions yet another opportunity to influence and shape the rules that govern their businesses.

In hailing the bill's passage in the Senate, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner acknowledged that implementing the new law will take time.

"But we are determined to move as quickly as we can to provide clarity and certainty," he said.

Among the first impacts of the bill, which Obama is expected to sign as early as Wednesday, will be the immediate creation of a 10-member Financial Stability Oversight Council, a powerful assembly of regulators chaired by the treasury secretary to keep watch over the entire financial system.

The Obama administration has one year to create a new bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. Congress will keep its eye on that agency, eager to see whether Obama chooses an ex director. The agency will have vast powers to enforce regulations covering mortgages, credit cards and other financial products.

One of the first post-passage issues to come back to the Senate will be the appointment of a director for the consumer agency.

But while the oversight council and the consumer bureau might loom starkly, other central provisions of the bill will take time, in some cases years, to take root.

The consumer bureau, for instance, has so long as 18 months after it is created for its regulations on predatory lending to take effect.

The legislation calls for a two-year study before regulators write rules on how risk-taking agencies should avoid any conflict of interest with the firms whose financial positions they assess.

The Fed has until April to devise standards to measure the fairness of fees charged by banks to merchants for customers who use debit cards. And regulators will have to finetune the broad restrictions in the legislation for the complex derivatives market.

Key will be determining what firms and corporations will face new restrictions.

Hailing the bill Thursday, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank is also ahead of the game, "overhauling its supervision and regulation of banking organizations."

Regulators also will have to figure out how to implement new standards for how much capital banks should hold in reserve to protect against losses. The legislation requires rules in 18 months. AP

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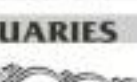

Baldoz mulls extra measures to strengthen protection of HSW

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOY-ment Secretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz said she will move decisively in reviewing the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's guidelines on the implementation of the Re-form Package affecting Household Service Workers (HSWs) with the view of addressing some gaps and incorporating some new measures to strengthen the protection of HSWs who are working or about to work overseas.

The move is in line with the 22-point labor and employment agenda of President Benigno C. Aquino III, which she is implementing as one of the Key Tra[illegible] in Personal Act of 2010 and on addressing the social costs of migration.

The agenda calls for the DOLE to work closely with communities and families of OFWs to provide effective social welfare services, and to prevent and prosecute those engaging in illegal and problematic recruitment involving money, economic and especially trafficking that targets women and children, among other dimensions.

"There is a call for the DOLE to really make a serious effort to protect the most vulnerable of our OFWs—OK household service workers—so it is high time for us to review the POEA rules as you know," Baldoz said during a consultative meeting with the DOLE's labor attaches who are now in the Philippines.

The consultative meeting, held in the office of the labor and employment chief in Intramuros, was attended by International Labor affairs bureau director Maya Makiwalar and labor attaches Jerlaine Cruz, Helen Consulta, Ruth Javar, Alex Suarez, Rolando Mendiola, Ring Lucero, Cheng Sevilla, Teresa Alvarez, and Ofelia Calderon.

During the consultative meeting, Secretary Baldoz expressed agreement with the labor attaches' suggestion to amend the rules governing the deployment of HSWs, particularly the 2006 guidelines, to allow Filipino workers to work in countries that are considered safe and to ensure that they are given full and complete social and economic assistance in the event there is repatriation or in their transfers and home countries policies upon their return.

"Our mandatory orders are done. We really have to act quickly and draw concrete results in terms of ensuring full protection to all OFWs," Baldoz said.

Some of the initial measures that the Labor and Employment chief discussed are as follows:

1. Ensuring that TESDA improves the quality of its skills assessment and certification system for HSWs to enhance their employability.

2. Tapping qualified OFWs who have returned to the country to provide their services as pre-departure orientation seminars.

3. Directing the POEA to identify entities in "no representing" policy.

4. Directing the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices to implement a no-nonsense monitoring of HSWs employers and the blacklisting of employers found guilty of the perpetration or commission of serious or recurring documentary agencies illegal recruitment.

5. Improving and fine-tuning case build-up on welfare cases.

6. Strict monitoring of HSW training, including the worker's personal appearance in pre-departure orientation seminar and post-arrival orientation; and

7. Working closely with host governments, as well as with officials of other government agencies, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, to ensure that HSWs who have undergone certain legal processes.

Among that the Philippines is open to the Tier 1 ratification for UN Anti-Trafficking. Secretary Baldoz pledged to exercise firm resolve in seeing to it that the DOLE will not push our class the national in 2010 will be evaluated, and as a tool not only to combat human trafficking, but also as a social protection mechanism for the most vulnerable among OFWs.

3rd National HR Summit to be held on July 29-30

THE 3RD NATIONAL HR SUMMIT WILL BE held on July 29-30 at the ballroom of Greenhills Plaza Galleria. For this year, the theme is Innovations in Recruitment and Talent Management.

Topic highlights include Creative Selection Process, Work-Friendly Assessment Tools: Strategies for Boosting Net Talent ROI for Recruiters, Recruitment Metrics: ROI, Talent Alignment with Corporate Values/Mission, Planning Talent Acquisitions and Manpower Complement: Updates in Employee Biometrics and Biometrics, Latest HR Strategies in Culture Change, Leadership that Compels Loyalty, Promoting Your Company as Employers of Choice, Cost Efficient Workforce for SMEs, Culture-Building Training and Talent Development for SMEs, Kaizen Management, Model for Performance Excellence, Best Practices in Talent Retention, and other relevant topics.

Among the speakers are Jonas Pascualito - Philippine Daily Inquirer | PMAP | PCTS, Rocelle De Vera, MBA, CSP-PMA, Atty. Manny Quisumbing-JPO, Dinky Soliman-Micro Impact, Pido Aguilar-Accenture, Gerardo Estrella - Pandayan, Kara Montenegro - North Sale Access, Pat Pascual - Transformation Intermediate, Freelance HR Consultant, Norberg Noriega III - PLDT, Dr. Patrick Alan Azarcon - WhiteSource Solutions, Maria Antoinette Alfonso - Global Transaction Service Rep-II, Mahogany Arevalo, Be Lazo - person-II, Raimari Geronimo, Bill Ian Robles, Anita Rodriguez, Royal Brigham, and other high-caliber speakers.

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OBITUARIES

DÑA. PILAR OLGADO DE ROXAS

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 13, 2010 at the age of 98.

Her bereaved family – husband †**EDUARDO ROXAS GARGOLLO**; children **PILAR ROXAS DE AREILZA**, **BEATRIZ ROXAS**, †**EDUARDO JOSE ROXAS**, **PEDRO EMILIO ROXAS**, **MARTA ROXAS DE LA RICA**; daughter-in-law **REGINA TAMBUNTING ROXAS**; son-in-law **JUAN DE AREILZA** & **IGNACIO DE LA RICA**; GRANDCHILDREN; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Family Chapel on July 20 and 21, 2010 with a mass to be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on July 20 and the funeral mass at 10:30 a.m. on July 21.

Inurnment will be immediately after the funeral mass at the family crypt at the Santuario de San Antonio.

Please omit flowers.

GE ends long profit slump

BOSTON—General Electric Co. posted its first quarterly profit increase in more than two years on Friday but a sharper-than-expected drop in revenue sparked investors and its shares fell about 4 percent.

It's a perverse slide in second-quarter revenue overshadowed on 8 percent rise to orders at the largest US conglomerate—the two-year story have narrowed since 2008.

Cost-cutting helped push up profit 16 percent at GE, the world's biggest maker of jet engines and electric turbines.

Chief Executive Jeff Immelt told analysts on a conference call that the economy is going to strengthen at different paces around the world."

Investors appeared not to share his confidence, though, and sold the shares down 81 cents to $14.60 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shares of big US banks Bank of America Corp and Citigroup Inc also fell as concerns about lackluster bank demand eclipsed stronger than expected earnings.

"The economic backdrop is a touch softer," said Mike McNair, portfolio manager at Becker Capital Management in Portland, Oregon. "GE is such a big ship that it's going to take a while for this thing to show improvement."

GE said net earnings at attributable to common shareholders rose to $5.05 billion in the second quarter, from $2.61 billion a year earlier.

The earnings, which worked out to 50 cents per share from continuing operations, topped Wall Street's forecasts of 27 cents per share, according to Thomson Reuters.

Revenue raised 4.3 percent to $37.44 billion, lower than the $38.37 billion analysts had expected. Reuters

Wall Street braces for earnings tsunami

A FAMILY walks past a business offering film props on sale in Hollywood. US stocks plunged after tagging consumer confidence and a mixed batch of second-quarter earnings revived fears about the health of the economic recovery. AFP

Goldman Sachs, gov't forge deal

NEW YORK—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Chief Executive Lloyd Blankfein may have saved his job by reaching a $550 million settlement with regulators, a relatively mild penalty for a firm accustomed to pumping out billions of dollars in profits each quarter.

Blankfein and his firm have suffered a remorseless three months since the US Securities and Exchange Commission announced civil fraud charges against Goldman, but now the CEO—who has led the firm since 2006—can take credit for calming investors and nervous employees.

"I think he was awful in getting this settlement without essentially admitting anything," said Matt McCormick, a portfolio manager with Bahl & Gaynor in Cincinnati.

"The conclusion is a clear victory for Goldman Sachs. You can quibble with the way he got there, but you can't quibble with the results."

But only was the settlement a victory for the Lloyd Blankfein and other investors had feared—Jeff Stein, a familiar O'Neill analyst, estimated its impact at 8 percent of 2010 earnings per share—but it also trapped chief of any admission of fraud and got rid of the biggest cause on shareholders' minds just days before Goldman reports quarterly earnings.

The resolution of the case has already added billions to Goldman's market capitalization.

In other words, he's have lessened the chance of litigation stemming from the SEC's allegations that the firm concealed the role of a short seller in structuring a mortgage-linked security.

Blankfein, 55, can stay until he decides to "hit the beach," rather than being forced out, former employees and investors say.

"He's probably politically, within the organization, strong enough to leave on his own terms," said one recently retired Goldman managing director.

"He handled it well enough to continue to have the support of everybody." Reuters

Blankfein, with four years as CEO, is not nearing a typical retirement age, nor is his tenure exceptionally long for a Wall Street executive.

But Blankfein, whose rise to power exemplified the trader-dominated organization of post-recovery trading at Goldman and its rivals, may step down with to the next year or two, possibly as new financial regulations are in.

The reform bill that was final congressional approval on Thursday put curbs on highly profitable trading activities and could cause Goldman to redouble its focus on investment banking. Blankfein, who once worked as a precious metals salesman at rationalities firm J. Aron & Co, has been a driving force behind the firm's trading operations.

"The next CEO will probably be an investment banking," the former Goldman employee said.

In the first quarter, Goldman reported net revenue of $7.4 billion in fixed income, currency and commodities trading, compared to net revenue of $2.2 billion in investment banking. Reuters

Disappointing economic data spook stock investors

NEW YORK—After a rough start to earnings season, US stocks face a fatal wave of corporate results this week amid growing worries the US economic recovery is slowing.

Stocks fell off a cliff Friday after a sagging consumer confidence index and mixed earnings sparked investors.

"What was looking like a nice week turned into a huge sell-off," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

Detrick noted that the unfortunate combination of disappointing earnings and troubling economic data "was all it took for the bears to take control."

Last week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.06 percent, to finish Friday at 10,097.90 points.

The tech-rich Nasdaq composite index gave back 0.79 percent at 2,179.05 points.

The S&P 500 index, a broad measure of the markets, dropped 1.11 percent to 1,064.88 points.

Bloomberg.com Alan, the first Dow member to report financial results, got the ball rolling last Tuesday with a strong rise in the second quarter and a brighter outlook on global demand for the metal.

Investors cheered, sending the Dow into a triple-digit gain and driving the markets to the only strong rally all week.

The major indexes finished lower Thursday after seven consecutive days of gains that had lifted the blue-chip Dow above seven percent.

But investors ran for cover Friday after worrying US bank results and the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index plummeted in July to its lowest reading in 11 months.

The Dow slipped 2.32 percent, the Nasdaq lost 3.11 percent and the S&P 500 shed 2.86 percent.

"Consumers remain worried about many things, including stretched and potential price changes, high unemployment, weak home prices, bad weather, and sensible caution to buy after the market began to collapse about three years ago. Reports are due on June housing starts and building permits, on Tuesday, and existing home sales on Thursday. AFP

INVESTMENT FUND	Valuation Date	Valuation Unit
ABVM 2010 Fund	5.1558	5.1590

INVESTMENT FUND	Valuation Date	Valuation Unit
ALPH Peso Bond Fund	100.48	101.26
ALPH Dollar Bond Fund	104.16	104.55

US growth fears turn tide against greenback

NEW YORK—A six-month rally in the dollar has stalled in recent weeks on concerns about the US economic recovery, prompting some strategists to bet the tide may be turning against the greenback.

An index tracking the dollar against a basket of six major currencies breached key support this week, suggesting more losses could be in store.

Activity in the options market and speculative positioning both showed a significant reduction in bullish sentiment toward the dollar.

Selling in the dollar accelerated last week after data showed slowing manufacturing and weakness in consumer spending, while Federal Reserve meeting minutes showed policymakers felt further stimulus may be needed if the recovery does further.

"The turnaround in attitude toward the dollar has been remarkably swift," said Andrew Williamson, senior analyst at Interactive Brokers Group in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The US dollar index has lost 6.1 percent this month after rallying about 10 percent from January to June.

The index made a decisive close below the key 84 mark last Monday.

"It was the most dramatic evidence we've seen so far that the dollar could be in for a few months of corrective action instead of just a few weeks," said Walter Zimmermann, chief technical analyst at United ICAP in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The euro has rebounded 5.6 percent this month and 9 percent since hitting a four-year low around $1.1875 in early June.

For much of the time since the global crisis took hold in late 2008, the dollar has moved in the opposite directions of equities, rising when stocks fell as investors sought safety in US Treasuries and weakening when stocks rose.

But recent declines in stocks have been driven by the euro's problems as investors focus on worries about the US economy and the dollar's diminishing yield appeal. The spread between 2-year US and euro zone rates has widened against the dollar in recent weeks.

Analysts said risk sentiment will likely continue to drive the dollar's performance, though worsening US fundamentals could mean the dollar would roll off more in a risk-taking environment than it would rally in a risk-off scenario. Reuters

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PHL-AC Peso Equity Fund	1.4439	1.4445
PHL-AC Balanced Fund	1.2077	1.2078
Principal Protect 1	0.9851	0.9851
Principal Protect 2	1.0566	1.0566
Principal Protect 3	0.9851	0.9851
Dollar-Peso Value Protect	1.1390	1.1391

Defiant Jobs stands by iPhone 4

CUPERTINO, CALIF.—A defiant Steve Jobs last week rejected any suggestion the iPhone 4's design was flawed, but offered consumers free phone cases to address irregular signal problems that have kept Apple Inc.'s image and shares.

In a rare, 90-minute press conference, the Apple chief executive assured that reception issues were a problem shared by the entire smartphone industry, naming specifically rivals Research in Motion, Samsung Electronics and HTC Corp.

Jobs maintained there were no problems with the iPhone 4's sharpened antenna design and accused the media of trying to "tear down" a company that had grown too successful.

After the June 24 launch of the iPhone 4, some users reported that, mobile reduced signal enough when they held the touch-screen phone a certain way in what has come to be known as the "iPhone 4 death grip."

APPLE CEO Steve Jobs appears during a news conference in Apple Inc. will give iPhone 4 users a free phone case to address a slew of complaints about reception problems that have hurt the company's image and shares. AP

Apple has lost more than $14 billion of its market value since June 28, with at least some of that attributed by analysts to the iPhone snafu.

Analysts said sales of the iPhone 4 had not been impacted by the antenna flap, though some users about longer-term damage to a reputation for quality products found on the iPad.

Most on Wall Street have not altered their iPhone sales estimates for the current quarter, which tops from 8 million to 1.2 million units.

The high margin iPhone is Apple's most important product line and yields 40 percent of revenue. The company is embarking on an ambitious push to drive iPhone growth in overseas markets. Jobs said Apple has sold well over 3 billion units of the iPhone 4 in the three weeks since launch. Reuters

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INFOTECH

Globe unlimited data plans take center stage

Smartphones seen to drive industry shift

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE FAST-CHANGING telecommunications industry is changing some more.

Where once voice and text messaging service provided the bulk of revenues for mobile phone firms, data services are now attracting themselves as the next big driver of sales.

That shift toward data services is being pushed along by the rapid growth of the smartphone market, with virtually all major manufacturers now offering phone models that double as personal digital assistants, cameras, music players and, most especially, internet browsers.

Recognizing this trend, Globe Telecom Inc. has taken the lead in providing its clients with a new set of product offerings that capitalizes on the market's growing appetite for data services.

In particular, Globe's new My Fully Loaded Plan for postpaid subscribers will give them the flexibility to choose their plan and customize their fixed monthly service for the way they want.

Globe's customizable plans build on the success of the firm's earlier product offering called My Super Plan, which brought the concept of unlimited data services to the market—a growing necessity with users becoming more budget-conscious while demanding more and more data access at the same time.

The My Fully Loaded Plan scheme allows users to choose from six types of services, namely: free calls and texts to Globe and Touch Mobile users; free calls and texts to other networks; free international calls and texts; free mobile surfing for three hours; unlimited calls and texts to one Globe number; and the Super Surf service, which provides unlimited internet access.

Simultaneous to this, the Ayala-led firm also introduced the newest smartphone model on the market that runs the Android operating system, the Samsung Galaxy S—a model that relies heavily on the availability of round-the-clock data connectivity.

Globe was chosen by Samsung to be its official launch partner in the Philippines—one of the first in the world—giving the company exclusive rights to market the "state-of-the-fine Galaxy S Android phone this month.

"Our partnership with Samsung is to line with our thrust to be the leader in innovation," Globe brand head Cathy Sacramento said in a recent briefing. "There is growing demand for smartphones, especially Android phones, and we want to match the change in phone usage and preference with relevant offers and services."

Globally, demand for smartphones is expected to grow about 22 percent annually over the next five years. Android, Google's operating system for mobile devices, is the fastest growing open platform for smartphones, with worldwide acquisitions for devices almost doubling in the fourth quarter of 2009.

SAMSUNG Galaxy

A superlight laptop that has a jet's cooling system

By Raquel P. Gomez

PORTEGE R700

IN 1985, Japanese PC maker Toshiba made and soon marketed the first notebook PC called the T1100—a laptop that weighed more than 4 kilograms and featured a floppy disk drive, monochrome text-only display, and Intel processor.

Twenty-five years later, laptops still carry the T1100's clamshell form factor. Toshiba, which already sold 140 million laptops since that time, is again reinventing the looks and functions of the device that has become a human necessity.

Recently the global firm introduced to the local market laptops with new features that set them apart from the rest. With the lineup, Toshiba may again start a trend.

The Libretto W100 is a mini notebook running on Windows 7. It features a 7-inch dual touchscreen.

The first pocket PC style notebook with dual touchscreens, the Libretto W100 is powered by Intel ultra-low voltage processor (dual core U7400 1.2 GHz, 2 MB L2 Cache). This makes it a more powerful device than a netbook.

Although it is a small laptop that may not be fitted with an optical disk drive, the Libretto W100 has been described by Toshiba officials during the product launch as a notebook that can do content creation (processing of multimedia files) and not just focus on consuming content like other netbooks do.

But the most obvious features of the Libretto W100 is the 7-inch dual multitouch sensitive LED backlit screen, which allows for greater functionality other than creating and consuming content.

Two touchscreen displays elevate the whole experience of using a notebook, according to Shing Lih Jia, general manager, Toshiba's computer systems division.

For one, it is easier for a user to share information.

For example a PowerPoint presentation may be seen by two people from both displays and the image can be manipulated by both parties using the multitouch screen displays.

A multitasker, the Libretto W100 features screens that can work in split mode or extended display mode.

With this feature, the user can play two movies (either a YouTube video or a Media player movie). A single image can be spread up for two whole screens or one screen can be used for Internet browsing while the other screen is used for something else—like viewing a document or writing an e-mail.

The device features an internal sensor that allows the content of the screen to adjust to vertical or horizontal orientation when the notebook is held or rotated. This makes the Libretto W100 a perfect device for reading E-books or E-newspapers.

For it to function as a work device, the device has a virtual multi-mode keyboard that provides haptic feedback, allowing users to feel as if they are typing on a real physical keyboard.

This pocket PC notebook has an keyboard modes with full, simple, numeric and split thumb key options, giving users the choice of what works best for the task at hand.

Apart from the Intel CULV processor, the Libretto W100 has 2 GB DDR3 memory, 62 GB solid state drive, and 8-cell battery.

It also has a Wi-Fi device and may connect with other peripherals via Bluetooth.

The brushed metallic finish Libretto W100 weighs just over 800 grams and can fit inside a bag or jacket pocket.

"The Libretto W100 defies conventions, packaging full Windows computing experience into a highly compact slim, fun-inside form factor," said Lih Jia. "This concept PC sets the pace for Toshiba's leadership in innovations for the next generation

LIBRETTO W100

century, demonstrating what's possible in the new generation of ultra-mobile devices."

Toshiba also introduced the Portege R700, which is the thinnest and lightest 13-inch full performance ultraportable notebook.

At less than 19 mm and weighing only 1.39 kg, the Portege R700 features the new Intel 2010 processors (Intel Core i3, Core i5, and Core i7 processors), which are fast and offer client processors that can handle gaming and multimedia tasks.

This laptop is unique when it comes to cooling system as it employs a new airflow cooling technology usually found in jet engines.

Lih Jia said Intel power setting parts of the laptop had been put together to one series and cooled through powerful jets at front, an...a technology that keeps the temperature of the laptop low even when the device is subjected to long and heavy use.

The Portege R700 also features a light and durable magnesium alloy casing reinforced with "honeycomb structure" beneath the palm rests and base of the laptop.

This structural design, usually found in carbon fiber components of a Formula 1 race, makes the laptop sturdy and rigid without adding additional weight.

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The greening of a printer

HOPING TO encourage toner printer users to participate in earth conservation efforts, Canon Philippines will be holding recycling bins for used ink cartridges in major malls in Metro Manila.

The ink cartridge collection is part of Canon GreenWorld, an environmental program that focuses on the proper disposal of Canon PIXMA and Selphy ink cartridges and toners.

With the program, printer users can place their empty printer cartridges in designated recycling bins inside Canon concept stores in malls.

During the launch of the green campaign, Canon officials said the project would encourage printer users to care for the environment by teaching them how to properly dispose printer cartridges.

Safe disposal of spent ink cartridges, which will be reprocessed and recycled by Canon manufacturing plants after collection, is the better than having them refilled.

The practice of using re-filled ink cartridges may also damage printers.

The proper disposal of ink cartridges drastically reduces landfills to approximately 60 percent by separating components such as metal, plastics, sponges and ink residues and re-using the parts that can still be recycled.

The recycling bins are located at the Canon Showrooms (McKinley Hill, Taguig), Canon Customer Care Center (Paseo De Magallanes, Makati), Canon Customer Care Center (Libertad, Mandaluyong), Canon Home Megamall, Canon Home Mall of Asia, and Canon Home SM North Edsa.

The recycle bins will also be deployed at Canon Home Glorietta and Canon Home Trinoma.

Canon, a multinational corporation that specializes in imaging and optical products, has been deeply involved with green programs since the 1990s.

Apart from its toner recycling program, the company has already embarked on zero landfill waste campaigns for its 17 plants, not only local but parts and part energy savings features in products.

Raquel P. Gomez

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

'Equus'—once lethal, now average

'Equus'—once lethal, now average

By Gilda Cuib

IN JULY 1973, when Peter Shaffer's "Equus" debuted in London, The Guardian's Michael Billington hailed it as "sensationally good"—a play whose "intellectual arguments and poetic imagery are virtually indivisible."

Repertory Philippines' ongoing production of "Equus" at Dasigan Greenbelt 1 makes clear that, nearly 40 years later, the play's poetry remains vital and intact. It's the intellectual jiggings that endure, upon second look, to have frayed considerably over time.

Pihati Shaffer's theme, especially as delivered by a technically flawless Miguel Bustamante (playing the psychiatrist Martin Dysart), still rumbles with that power and beauty, what they're talking about is, in the end, rather worryingly silly.

You wouldn't immediately know that, however, from the care and respect with which this play has been mounted. As the Gemora's direction of Shaffer's densely worded psychodrama, a much more play in its time he no highbrow explanation of rationality and madness, originally more one that many of who an introverted stable boy of 17 (Alan Strang, alternately played by Red Concepcion and Marco Molinder) would commit a seemingly senseless act of extreme violence—blinding six horses under his care, when he practically was dripped to be animals.

Distinguishing the play within a more loose central platform forged by a series of shadowy excuses from which the horses (half-naked wearable men wearing glinting wire-mesh equine heads) would emerge, Gemora's uncluttered staging has the benefit of letting Shaffer's shimmering language do its work.

The effect is intensely theatrical. Under Sandhi's lighting and Arthur Joaquin's atmospheric sound design are of superb help), yet much is still left to the imagination, as befits a play that lends great sympathy to the workings of the underworld mind.

Ironically, it is when one goes beyond the stagecraft and pores more closely at what it all means that the play's gallop, big argument, as it were, starts to lose stride.

Homogenizing impulse

In "Equus," Shaffer offers a critique of the power of civilization and modernity to destroy what's free and primeval in people—specifically, among the mental ly challenged, which this play holds up as shattered of heretofore untapped knowledge and insight. To make them "normal" is to take away that primitive fire, laboriously them into ghostly shells of themselves.

It's place of the field where a naked [illegible] at midnight, would ride the horse that has become his god, he's giving the boy "new planes of vision—multilevel highways," Dysart laments.)

In the late '70s, when popularism and bullish psychology made counter-cultural heroes of nonconformists and anarchists (e.g., Ken Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the Broadway musical "Hair," Stanley Kubrick's film adaptation of "A Clockwork Orange"), when the hippie spirit smoked the streets, [illegible] impulses of modern life, that was arguably heady stuff—nothing less than a point in the eye of the Establishment. Now it sounds only quaint, downsighted.

Strangely, that halcyon pressure is at the heart of "Equus" more than the whysdunit story of the boy and those unfortunate horses. Plus, Dysart's existential angst (what he calls his "predestined [illegible] consequences"—might it not be the normal kind?) has him spending much of Acts 1 and 2 bemoaning the supposedly mundane options before him.

To be fair, his self-lacerating monologues do offer the pleasure of being couched in Shaffer's bewitching lines ("I seem for the pulled and prowessed out of my unconscious sending" goes one.)

Lucid delivery

And this set-up is surely to Bustamante, an actor with a proven ability for the elongated, bravura line. His delivery is astonishingly clear and well-sustained, rendering this veritable play-text and Nicol throughout.

He is, however, hobbled by something else—a surface skill for the dark and tragic. His Dysart hardly evinces gravitas, despair or self-loathing, and without these undercurrents, his character's well-read gravamen eventually clicks into hegelodeon whining.

Gemora's uncluttered staging has the benefit of letting Shaffer's shimmering language do its work

PRIZED: Passionate on psychiatrist Dr. Martin Dysart, with Marco Molinder as the troubled boy Alan Strang (alternating with Red Concepcion)

RED CONCEPCION as Alan Strang

Bustamante's Dysart is more a sleepy bourgeois gentleman than a haunted shrink sweating on the edge of his own breakdown. When he luminously his existence with two colleagues, the wine is jovial, and the audience audibly laughs with him.

"It's the new to-beat—Dysart is mentally repulsed at himself for having arrived at this point, when his sense of misery has forced him to broach his code of propriety by laughing at his wife in public. That Bustamante can't then.

(Or perhaps we watched too early in the run? Surely everyone in the cast will warmed to be feeling their way around the set and their characters. Concepcion has a better grasp of his by several notches compared to Molinder, but both of them would fill out the role more comfortable given time. Their countenances already seem absolute at this point; the play's weighty and harrowing nude scenes would cut actors of lesser constitution.

Ana Abad Santos's parents, Jaime del Mundo and Tami Bonsol are technically good, but have yet to look into a parallel chemistry together. It's Phoena Barredo, as the girl who seduces Strang into a fateful sexual encounter, that begrudges with a surer, affordless performance.)

Ferocious passion

Dysart, trapped in that arid marriage and a listless life flecked with desultory, cautious holidays to Greece, the glories of whose ancient pagan culture he has come to equate with Strang's untamed inner world, now floods the deadening effects of the "normal" life he's resumed, during his patient into—"the good smile in a child's eyes, [but] also the dead stare in a million adults... the ordinary made bearable, the average made lethal."

Why? However: "That boy has known a passion more ferocious than I have known in any second of my life, and I envy it," he muses. "That's what he stared lives saying to me all this time... So how I galloped? When did you?"

"Equus" takes some two hours and 30 minutes to make a frustratingly forced, Pilgrim-esque like the unlikely and emotional cry of the mentally unbalanced. Who will argue with that? Yet its blinds darkness sounds hollow.

"My desire might be to make of this boy an ardent husband, a caring citizen, a worshipper of a unifying and statesman god. My achievement...however, is more likely to make him afraid" says Dysart.

Reality? Is ardent parenting not a good enough passion? Is patriotism, which has shed uncountable blood and bred more than its share of heroes, if hardly read, transparent if that isn't passion, what is? Odder still, is "normality" enough yet less a creative, productive, impassioned life with its inevitably realized gods and freaks?

Corrective

In the 1973 film version of "Equus," Hungarian the leading Dysart (played by Roslyn Hess) to Italy's singing, by the great Alberto Addato in the film), offers the one indispensable corrective to Dysart's tribulations and the play's sentimental bent with this appeal to commonsense and perspective.

"Every man, if I had to summarize my own thoughts, your own skills...absolutely what's unique to you. I watched you do it year after year and it's marvelous! You can't just sit there now and say it's all professional and you're just a hatchet... All right, you were galloped. Too bad! Let it take the training anymore, and what's more, to will the boy at the moment. That state of his isn't accusing you, it's simply demanding that that—your power to pull him out of the nightmare he's caught and hurtled in."

Shaffer himself wrote the screenplay, so we're reasonably sure those lines were his. Curiously—suspicious My—those words are no longer in the current stage revival. Strachey's rebuttal of Dysart's anguish over the boy is now a man's genuine sophistication. "Maybe he just wants a new dad."

Where did the lines go? Why were they cut? Without them, "Equus" is so much homogenized spirit on, well, nothing much. The lethal, in effect, made average.

Repertory Philippines' "Equus" runs until July 25 at Dasigan Greenbelt 1, Makati City. For ticket inquiries, call 8470728 or visit www.repertory.ph.

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The romance of Riyadh

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Callas, Gil and 'crisis'

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

I DO MARRIAGE is a European musician two years ago. She was devastated. And there she was, across Gloria Gil, set to appear onstage as the diva Maria Callas (1923-1977) in the Philippine Opera Company (POC) production of Terrence McNally's "Master Class."

Thankfully, Gil declared that she could not go on with the show, but she was persuaded again to honor her contract. And so she did, and she gave the greatest performance of her life.

Now, Gil is set to repeat the role of a lifetime in the new POC production of "Master Class," which opens at RCBC Plaza Theater in Makati City on July 29, 8 p.m., and will run for 10 performances, Thursdays, Sundays until Aug. 15.

Backing up Gil, who plays a teaching but increasingly Callas (the soprano has lost her voice and retired from the stage), are operatic singers Ana Hebra, Flaviano Aguilar, Ray Buhajdia, Joan Alberto Giordano and Al Enriquez. Preston Alcantara plays the pianist, Michael Williams directs.

The new production was announced at a recent press conference at Gremio Plaza on Ortigas Avenue, with Gil herself, visibly excited if not nervous, flanked by her voice and all, holding forth.

She narrowed her "crisis" two years ago but did not elaborate. Instead, she said that the role of Callas was "her destiny for her. It was like some sign, some message from the spirit up there. Somehow I just could not resist, there was something about her... We all need inspiration, inside culture. I had to find inspiration, I had to dig..."

The new POC production, she acknowledged, "is a beginning of a chapter in my life. I hope to find new elements, new insights, so that I can express her (Callas') life, her love for the art."

Asked if she and Callas had anything in common, Gil replied: "I can paraphrase you. Everything in life. I have done it—nearly"—and added, forming the letter down: "Especially in art."

One enlisted writer, playing the devil's advocate, questioned why we were celebrating Callas' discipline and dedication to her art when, at the end of her life, her passion for her lover Aristotle Onassis became more important than her career.

Gil rose to the defense of her idol, saying, "Callas' voice was her power for many years. But there came a point where she felt it was enough... so she turned to Onassis, she transferred her energy to Onassis."

Gil pointed out the play "uses opera and to excite us a platform for universal things. It need not refer to music, it could be about writing, your personal life, and the pianoforte."

Williams echoed the sentiment. "This piece (play) is an universal because it talks about the things that drive us for need, that gets us out of bed... The play resonates even with young people who never knew heard of Callas, because it's about the passionate pursuit of something."

THE CAST of Philippine Opera Company's 2010 production of Terrence McNally's "Master Class," opening July 29 at RCBC Theater, with director Michael Williams (5th from left)

CHOSE Gil at the "Master Class" presscon

AS LEGENDARY diva Maria Callas

Edades gets auctioned, inspires building

By Walter Ang
Contributor

SEVEN OUT of 14 works by National Artist Victorio C. Edades, considered the Father of Philippine Modern Art, were sold at a recent auction organized by property developer Rockwell Land and conducted by the auction house Salcedo Auctions.

The 50-percent clearance rate is in par with successful auctions conducted by international auction houses Sotheby's and Christie's. The auction was the first of its kind in the country, where all the works up for bid were by one artist.

The catalogue cover piece, "Seahorse," sold for P1,277,000 in a competitive auction. The 1971 oil on canvas measuring 57.1 x 72 cm shows the full range of the artist's painterly skill in the pure Impressionist style.

The work that achieved the highest price increase was the hard-to-find 29.8 x 43.2 cm 1961 pen-and-ink drawing "Seated Nude Female and Male Models," which achieved P153,000—more than double the presale estimate of P60,000. That piece was purchased by a private collector.

Rockwell Land hosted an exhibit of the works curated by Serena Cinco-Lopa—one joint to the auction. Both events were

ROCKWELL Land president Tony Puno with Rey and Margarita Tiangco, from whom Rockwell Land acquired "Seahorse" (left)

the developer's tribute to the man after whom its latest project is named: Edades Tower and Garden Villas.

Planning the development after Edades follows Rockwell Land's convention of naming previous neighboring developments after National Artists in Visual Arts, like oldest-known Jose Joya and Guillermo Tolentin properties Victoria Mansion.

In its attempt to be as revolutionary as its namesake as well as acknowledging the master's interest in gardening and horticulture, the development aims to redefine urban living by incorporating space for green-eryism in design.

Located in Rockwell Center, Makati City, the 53-story residential tower is the first of four planned residential towers within Rockwell Land's master-planned 15.5 hectares. The defining feature of this development, designed by architecture firm PL mercado Rodrigues Fontelera and Partners, is the inclusion of 36 Garden Villas that will form a cluster of low-density units, similar to town homes, that extend from the main Edades Tower. Each of these villas comes with lawn areas.

The towers will include flat units, lofts and a lofts (a concept pioneered by the developers that allows for two different views of the cityscape from the same living/dining unit spanning the entire width of the building) starting at 53 sq m up to 143 sq m.

Certain lofts in the tower will have their own garden decks as well, creating visual breaks along the tower's height.

Aside from landscaped podium gardens, amenities will include an 8-hour self-contained lap pool, a fully equipped and state-of-the-art gym, full-service function rooms and a business center.

The Edades Tower and Garden Villas will have an exclusive tunnel access to Power Plant Mall as well as a central plaza to house dining establishments.

Call Rockwell Land at 7926000.

EDADES Tower

The romance . . .

From page C1

most wonder through the maze of shops at the great souk in the center of old Riyadh unexpectedly led me to King Abdul Aziz Center where a series of large open spaces interconnected by modern arcades and new-build logs evoking traditional Najdi architecture elegantly house several heritage structures.

Fortress

Within that complex is The 19th-century Al Murabak Fortress. Totally restored, it is a stunning example of mud-and-brick desert architecture packed by hand into thick, solid fortifications with crenellated towers at each corner punctured by small triangular windows.

The fortress opens out into a series of restored rooms, including a small mosque and a traditional dining setting adorned with carpets and cushioned banquettes on four walls. A restored dhaira (an Shura-style reception and function).

Guided by thick mud walls, some of rooms open out to small open-air courtyards surrounded by colonnades within the fortified structure.

Al Murabak Fortress was opened by Amir Abdul Al Aziz Bin Abdul Al-Rahman Bin Faisal Al Saud to establish control over Saudi Arabia. It restored now—as are the other urban redevelopment complex to revitalize the old Qasr al Hokm district, the traditional center of the city, including the government buildings and the royal residence.

Essentially, the complex is a group of modern buildings behind walls. Lines and towers punctuate structures that evoke traditional architecture, leading interior colonnades. Narrow passageways open out into courtyards recalling traditional space use.

Set within open public areas, the Great Mosque takes its cue, dressed plaza as a center of worship, part of the city's neighborhood rather than standing apart as an independent monument.

Mosque acoustics—vaulted ceilings, arcades and the flat roofed prayer hall—follow traditions. Two square minarets indicate the qiblah direction of the skyline. Limestone walls are punctuated by small, triangular openings in patterned formations that, although modern and contemporary, resemble traditional buildings and recall those of the past.

Palm trees provide a modicum of shade in the open courtyards. Despite sandstone walls and granite benches, modern landscaping still evokes the desert.

Nevertheless, the open courtyards provide the much needed public open space in urban Riyadh which fills up in the late afternoon with children who play under the veiled watch of their mothers.

Valley

Another place that fills up with Saudis seeking open air is Wadi Hanifa on the outskirts of the city. It used to be a dry valley, but after the construction of Riyadh's main sewage facility, a large amount of water runoff had been channeled into the stream bed, which created a new green corridor of approximately 130 km long, covering the northwards on the valley.

Under the Ar-Rijal Development Authority, there are plans to preserve and develop the Wadi Hanifa wetlands to turn it into an environmental and recreational destination. It now only offers a constantly running stream of water, but the remnants of the wetlands and plantings of trees as part of the original sewage have also attracted migratory birds to the valley.

The continuous flow of water and treated sewage has created a unique natural phenomenon in the middle of the dry arid land, which is home to a small natural oasis of almost 300 km long, has been created, with small waterfalls, lakes and islands, supporting a rich variety of flora and fauna.

A stunning example of an effort to bring back the natural environment to the areas of politics, trade, tourism and culture.

In the past, there have been opportunities presented for sporadic cultural exchanges and festivals, but these were always limited in scope and duration. Nothing that by traditions are a powerful, and as far underdeveloped, source for national pride, Saudi Arabia has refrained or softsoothing, avoiding and, often necessary, carefully and painstakingly researching its architectural and cultural traditions.

Will there now be increased tourism in Saudi Arabia? That is bound to happen.

E-mail your comments and final look to pride.plaza@gmail.com

FULLY restored late 19th-century mud-and-brick Al Murabak Fortress, the centerpiece of Old Riyadh and the national symbol of Saudi Arabia

Alliance Française turns 90, launches artist residency program

By Gwenna Gregan-Reese
Contributor

IN THE EARLY 20th century French travelers lived in Grosvenor, Jean Heilbe and Alfred Marden came to the Philippines and painted their scenic journeys in books well-known to—and still avidly sought by—Filipino scholars and collectors of Filipiniana.

Later in that century, Paris was home to the stellar dynamic group of noted Filipino intellectuals and artists such as José Rizal, Juan Luna and Félix Resurrección Hidalgo. A bronze plaque commemorating the historical fact that Luna and Hidalgo lived and worked in an adjacent flats, has embedded in the front wall of one of the buildings at the corner of the Cité Pinette (Pinetree Cité) on Boulevard Arago in the 13th Arrondissement in Paris.

I was present when this plaque was laid in 1985 by a delegation of Filipinos led by the late Amina Melvar Tolentino, Consul General, with weight Director Administrator Virginia B. Moreno. I lived for many years on a small street off the Avenue des Gobelins not far from the Cité Pinette.

Diplomatic relations

Diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France were formalized with the signing of Treaty of Amity on Nov. 28, 1947. Since then, Philippine-French relations have remained strong, and cooperation continues in the areas of politics, trade, tourism and culture.

For the past, there have been opportunities presented for sporadic cultural exchanges and festivals, but these were always limited in scope and duration. Nothing that by traditions are a powerful, and as far underdeveloped, source for national pride, Saudi Arabia has refrained or softsoothing, avoiding and, often necessary, carefully and painstakingly researching its architectural and cultural traditions.

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Lea Salonga talks about Charice Pempengco, 'Glee' and the power of fur ... er, purr Take Five/E1

Happy to see the kids smile

*STARSTRUCK Season 37 alumni Bayo Alarina, Sarah Lahbati and Enzo Pineda (right) were eager hearers of his—plus more than 3,000 books and 39 computers—to students of Sampaloc Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal.

Bayo joined a success search between the schools/fellow and the outreach program sponsors, Pru Life UK, led by president and CEO Peter Gilmore. "It was rewarding to see the kids smile," said Bayo. Added Enzo: "The happiest people are not necessarily those who have everything, but those who make the best of everything."

BOOTS with Rene Mollet

RITA with Edgar Allan Guzman

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- John Stiles-Bautista

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Year of the cougar

Boots Anson-Roa and Rita Avila discover the joys of younger men—onscreen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

NOTHING scares Rita Avila exclaimed, "Cougars are in!"

She gasped, in both trepidation and excitement. "I never imagined having a 20-year-old leading man at this point in my career."

She was referring to Edgar Allan Guzman, her partner in "Magdusing"—director Jerrold Tarog's entry in the Cinema One Originals competition of the Cinemalaya fest.

Showing their love scenes, Rita and Edgar were on needles and pins. "Direk Jerry shot everything first and the bed scene on the last day," Rita recalled. "Our knees were shaking."

Edgar was initially self-conscious about stripping down to his skivvies. "I told him he could wear two pairs of briefs if he wanted to," said Rita.

She said her husband, TV director Eyek Bersis, wasn't bothered by her foray into "cougar" territory. "After I read the script [by Jerry Gracio]," she related, "I asked him to review it before I accepted. But he said he didn't have to. He's very supportive."

Boots likes this zone mainly in women of a certain age in this country, Rita said.

Another veteran actress, Bernie Anson-Roa, dabbled in a May-December romance in the directed opening film, "Gasoline Rainbow." She played the lover of Romnick Sarmenta. "She's half my age," Bernie pointed out. "I'm 68, he's 35."

It was the "shock value" that made the role so engaging, the schoolmarm. "No mainstream producer would offer me this kind of role."

Romantics, who is boasting (required), was a dream to work with, said Bernie. "He's very sensitive. We connected effortlessly. I think he did our dance scene really well by feeling the music's vibrations on the floor."

When she and her family watched the film, she said she heard her 14-year-old grandson Mico exclaiming, "Oh, my God. Oh, my Lord!"

"I think he still thinks of me as the Virgin Mary," Bernie laughed, that she drew the line on kissing scenes. "I never did any even when I was younger. I don't think I should start."

Isn't there anything that would make her reconsider? Bernie laughed again. "Maybe if it's with Brad Pitt or George Clooney."

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2 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
3 PREDATORS
4 CINCO
5 INCEPTION

ANGELES

1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 CINCO
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 INCEPTION

TAGUIGAN

1 INCEPTION
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 CINCO

DUMAGUETE

1 INCEPTION
2 CINCO
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

BACOLOD

1 STREET DANCE (Digital 3D)
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 CINCO
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 INCEPTION
6 PREDATORS

ILOILO

1 INCEPTION (4:30)
2 CINCO
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 INCEPTION
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GENSAN

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3 INCEPTION
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The Chapter Begins
JULY 21

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

Greater focus on new dancers needed

Nestor U. Torre

FILIPINOS love to dance, so it stands to reason that we should have more dance idols on TV. Nevertheless, Pilipinas have always done well on US dance competitions like "So You Think You Can Dance?").

That's why we welcome the new dance program, "Dance Showdown," on GMA 7, which seeks to discover the next Sexbomb Dancers. Given the very-short group's popularity (which has been largely fueled by its regular stints on TV shows like "Eat Bulaga!" and thereafter spin-off like "Daisy Siete"), it's no surprise that the new 6th has chosen many auditioned over the country.

On its first telecast, "Dance Showdown" focused on its Pampanga auditions, specifically on the first thirty hopefuls who made the cut and competed for the two slots enabling the daily winners to move to the competition's next level.

The five finals were real discoveries. Unfortunately, they had to share one set with some Sexbomb Dancers, in a one-at-one showdown with the more experienced professionals.

The moderators may have been good, but the showdown with the pros made for bad and unbalanced TV and clustered up the night in a major way.

As viewers, we wanted to focus on the day's finalists, to see to make up our own minds who stood out and deserved to win—but the professional dancers' splendid narration made it difficult for us to do this.

As a result, the all-important bond between contestant and viewer was broken, and the voting was big mess.

In the future, more stage should be reserved for the day's finalists only and the pros should've been relegated to them, despite their understandable desire to grab their own 15 seconds of well-deserved glory.

The show's hosting can also stand a lot of improvement. Mark Herras and Iza Calzado may be wonderful dancers, but they fail to gain stature as program hosts, because they cannot themselves with reading their spiels on the idiot board "correctly" (here's much more to TV hosting than that!).

What viewers look for in TV program hosts is a unique personality, natural liveliness and energy, genuine interest in and excitement over the shows and its contestants, and the ability to act the role—and tempo—that the participants need to connect with and delight viewers.

Clearly, the "Dance Showdown" hosts need to be made much more aware of those key duties, which are more important than just "correct" spiel-reading.

Which equipped us to let them do their thing, their respective natures and functions should have coached them first—or, failing that, the show's director should have used my and all means to get them to "deliver." What wasn't they done? Instead, we hope that "Dance Showdown" will soon iron out its major kinks, because this dancing nation deserves to be able to munch and enjoy on home-grown talent and showcase for our hundreds of gifted dancing dervishes on weekday television.

Mutant evolution, revolution

By Oliver M. Palattao
Contributor

WOLVERINE

THEMATICALLY DARKER than previous animated shows featuring Marvel Comics' mutant adventurers, "Wolverine and the X-Men" depicts the characters as their most desperate and relatable.

Separated after the mysterious disappearance of their telepath leader Professor X, the X-Men are reassembled by Wolverine and the Beast, who've had encounters with the mutant-hunting members of the MRD (Mutant Response Division).

Most characters that appear in "Wolverine and the X-Men" have previously featured in the comic books, so those already familiar will recognize them in the show. Despite changes in appearance, an obligatory frame of the character's origin, powers (some), ethics are now enacted among their foes.

While older TV shows like the 1990's "X-Men" and the early 2000's "X-Men: Evolution" had their share of dark moments, "Wolverine and the X-Men" explores a world where the powerful outcasts—believed by many as the next phase in human evolution—are constantly hounded and incarcerated. In this reality, the X-Men fight to liberate fellow mutants from their human oppressors, as well as to protect humans from disruptive mutants like Magneto, the Brotherhood and the Hand, ex-King.

Inspired by popular neon lines, but immersing the characters in a number of new situations, the series gives most of the team members ample focus over the course of its 26-episode run. The dual-storyline format is partly retained in our episode, highercrasher shines in a role mission against mutant-abducting pirates in another. The show also has unexpected guests, just like in the comics. Marvel's iconic anti-heroine, the Hulk, makes his rage felt in an action-heavy episode.

"Wolverine and the X-Men" is accessible to newbies, but it doesn't hurt to be familiar with the established mythologies. It's not as fun as the visually brighter and more dynamic "X-Men: Evolution," but the more serious tone still works. The action impressively reshapes the X-universe and effectively introduces the cinematic struggles of mutantkind.

"Wolverine and the X-Men" airs weekdays, 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., on Cartoon Network.

'True Blood' 3

"True Blood," which received five nominations in the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards, begins its 12-episode third season tonight at 9 on HBO and HBO HD.

In the new season, Sookie Stackhouse begins her desperate search for the whereabouts of her vampire boyfriend Bill Compton after mysteriously disappeared after proposing to her during a romantic date at the end of the last season.

Replays are on Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

YESSIE Fornes

Tessie in 'Noah'

Tessie Tomas broadens life to Hoda Pascual's mother in ABS-CBN's newest prime time series "Noah," airing weeknights after "TV Patrol" on ABS-CBN.

"Noah," which also stars child actor Enjoe Jaucelda, earned a high rating of 39.9 on its pilot episode last Monday, according to the Kantar Media. (Kimberly Taylor-Nelson Sofres) nationwide ratings data.

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INCEPTION – PG13 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10	PREDATORS/THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE – R13/PG 12:50, 3:15/5:20, 7:40, 10:00	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE (in 3D) 12:00, 2:40

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"MASAYA po akong dapat one achieves para make-love like a Mo Lee," says Charice.

Charice 'flattered' by comparisons to Lea Salonga

IT WAS such a delight to interview Charice Pempengco for my "Hello Dolly" segment in "Pasasaan." She has no ego at all, which makes me wonder why some quarters insist she has become swell-headed. Her warmth was genuine and her smile made me feel instantly at home.

How is she preparing for "Glee"?

"I will take lessons from a vocal coach to improve my range," she said. "I can't wait to meet the cast, especially my crush, Kevin McHale, who portrays Artie."

How does she feel that she's called the Lea Salonga of her generation?

"I'm so flattered," she beamed. "But nadiyan pa akong dapat pat-achieve para make-level ko si Mo Lee. Pagsisisi pa lang ako, pa-Judili na siya ilang beses na."

Is there anything that the "Most Talented Girl in the World" cannot do? "I still need to polish my acting," she said. "Glee' will give me a chance to do that."

Abiso/Ang Talentadong Pinoy!

Separation confirmed

I wrote about the separation of William Martinez and Faye Aguila many columns ago, but it's only now that they finally admitted it.

"We live in separate houses but neighbors lang," she revealed. "We see each other every day because we don't want our kids to have a hard time adjusting. William and I grew together but he now we have to grow as individuals. We are not closing the door, though. But I'm not ready to get into another relationship. I am no longer a wife but I'm still a mother."

Faye teased me that if ever William finds another girl, she would prefer me because we're good friends and William was my first boyfriend. We both had a good laugh. Pare forward!

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Euphoric Angel

Angel Aquino is euphoric that "Magkaribal" is hosting is over to the ratings. Isn't it emotionally draining to play favorables?

"It's heavy," she said. "That's why I do stress after taping. It's easier to portray, though, because it's a release of pent-up emotions rather than portraying a dramatic role where I have to cry."

Isn't she wary of clashing with the very feisty Gretchen Barretto?

"I have no problems with Gretz," she said. "But I don't want to comment on the issues the girls involved in."

The unprecedented success really lives up to her name. She's Angelic, indeed!

John Pao in Manila

International martial arts star John Pao is coming to Manila on July 24 to promote his much-awaited movie "Tekken" for Sky Pinoy fans. He plays the lead role of Jin Kazama in the movie adaptation of the wildly popular video game. While here, he will be guesting in several TV shows, meeting the press and gracing the inducement ceremony of "Tekken." Take my breath away, John!

E-mail: mawringhi@yahoo.com; dollyjohn.com

The evolution of Paella

Paella, an original Spanish recipe, is now one of the most popular rice dishes on the planet. This delicious one-dish meal originated in the Spanish province of Valencia reached different continents in the 19th century, following the spread of the Moorish culture and heritage in the time of explorers and traders.

Paella usually takes the shape of the pan from which it was named - paella in Valencian language - the wide, shallow, round, metal, frying pan with two handles. You don't eat this at its main dishes. It is a versatile dish that lends to endless variety of ingredients and combinations. Rice is always there, some garlic, vegetables, seafood, chorizo, sausage, chicken, duck and other meat products.

Paella is also known for its perfectly garnished, golden color, which comes from the saffron threads. It took many trying, frustrating and time-consuming attempts before the cooking for a complete and solid meal. No wonder, paella is one of the most requested dishes in Spanish restaurants.

Paella is in fact considered one of the well-known symbols of Valencia. In the Philippines, many restaurants chefs have their versions of Paella and Valencian cuisine that the country enjoyed during the time colonized the Philippines by Spanish rulers. Over the years, Paella gained a local flavor that satisfied the Filipino palate.

It is said that Paella began as a poor man's meal. Its ordinary ingredients were rice with vegetables, beans and snails as their base. The versatility of rice to taste beautifully with almost any other ingredient and its ability to absorb what was added to the casserole, it has served as well with chicken or duck, which the more wealthy citizens added.

Through the years, Paella has evolved into many forms, thanks to the innovativeness of the people who adapted it as their own. Aside from the original Valencian paella, there emerged new varieties such as seafood paella and the most adventurous mixed paella, which have their particular regional and personal touches in common.

Of the many types of paella, there has been a growing interest in certified paella quality owing to the changing lifestyle of those who want to eat more than mixed products. It is said that authentic paella is considered one of the best paella in the world.

Seafood paella uses a variety of seafood, including shrimp, mussels and fish that are also go perfectly with rice and vegetables. Recently, there has been a growing preference for tuna as an ingredient for paella because of its superior taste and health benefits.

Preparing paella, however, is a laborious process, and many manufacturers have worked hard to control cost or open the first packages so consumers know is throughout the flavor. This is why canned paella is now considered the most appropriate for grand festivities such as town fiestas.

Filipino consumers will be glad to know that they can now enjoy their favorite Paella anytime and anywhere they want. Paella is an ocean-rich delicacy by now that includes. Food preparation.

From a seasonal dish usually served on festive occasions, Paella has now become a delicacy more in demand by many Filipinos who want to become a daily dish, without the painstaking process involved in its traditional preparation. Fortunately, the maker of UFC food products, Universal San Marino Tuna Paella, using a revolutionary technology that makes it possible to preserve rice, fish and vegetables in a single can for up to three years.

The innovation solved consumption to enjoy Tuna Paella straight from the can, serving warm with a touch of microwave heat. Each can of San Marino Tuna Paella is a full meal combination that retains the traditional taste of Paella, which is now available in convenient ready-to-eat form.

Luncheons and celebrating at the same time, San Marino Tuna Paella can be enjoyed any day of the week. It is packed in an easy-open can, which is also designed to provide the consumers with convenience food packaging.

Aside from San Marino Tuna Paella, many special is that it has no preservatives and is rich in omega 3 fatty acids that are good for the heart as well as DHA, which helps improve brain functions.

The product is a part of the San Marino Pasaty Line, the first ready-to-eat meal brand in the Philippines providing Filipino consumers by providing them with high-quality, healthy, affordable, and tasty convenience food solutions at value-added.

ENTERTAINMENT

The truth about 'Cats' and Lea inside that costume

SIN "Memory": "Next much I can do about an iconic song...but my very best."

Original 'Miss Saigon' talks candidly about 'Glee,' the new Kim, Charice and the power of fur... or, purr

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN Lea Salonga gets all riled up about something, anything, all you need, as a professional inquisitor, is to sit back and listen.

No need to get a seat in edgewise. It doesn't even matter if you've been given just 15 minutes with the very first Asian to play Grimaldia in the long-running musical "Cats" to be staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines from July 24 to Aug. 22).

Between anecdotes about shopping (Greenbelt and...Alabang Town Center are fave), her raucous column (Monday's her 'writing day') and freaking some stage neophyte with the real-deal therapist (who recalled "no!") of this "Cats" thing, we manage to sneak in a few "non-Lea" questions—specifically about "Glee" and the planned film version of "Miss Saigon," a musical that won a big part of her life for a decade.

Properly prodded, she talks on and on, on everything! Highlights found of "last five minutes" (an interview) follow.

Are you a dog or cat person?
CAT.

But you had dogs, too?
Our family did. But you can't make me take care of them. My brothers have them now.

I thought you were allergic to cats?
I've had cats as there's no way I'm allergic to them. I used to have two Australian tabby cats, Mac and Emma, in the US. But I had to give

THE TRUTH 02

TAKE FIVE

KEEPING busy during talk at the Manila press con prior to rehearsals in Melbourne

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN

BY ED ARUNA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PAL LANDOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBUGS

BY ELIZABETH HOMONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PAULAVAN

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

TUDOR

BY HABA COLL

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

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BY FRANCES DRAKE

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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8	6	1	7	2	4	5	9	3
3	4	9	5	3	9	1	7	6
9	3	2	8	4	5	6	1	7
6	1	7	3	9	2	8	5	4
4	5	8	1	6	7	9	3	2
1	8	6	4	7	3	2	9	5
5	9	4	2	1	6	7	8	3
7	2	3	9	5	8	4	6	1

Concepts Sudoku

5		8			9			3
7	4	3	2		5	8		
		9					5	
	5	7	1					2
4				8				5
8					2	7	1	
	9					5		
		5	4		1	3	6	8
3			7			9		4

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The truth about 'Cats'. . .

From page E2

them up because we were moving back to Manila and she had a major posing problem. She would just not anywhere. He couldn't discipline her. My siblings are extra-sentimental, nothing to do with that.

So you've positively flew with the Cinderella costume?

Dicyadi No problem.

What was it like wearing the Cinderella costume for the first time?

Weird. When I had my first costume fitting, without the wig and makeup, it was okay. But when I had the full getup on...every time I passed by a mirror, I'd be like, "Oh, my God!"

It doesn't look strange from afar but up close and in person, it's horrible.

What was your daughter Sharlet's reaction upon seeing your "Cats" makeover?

My daughter saw the whole process. She was fine with it. She knew it was necessary under the makeup. She wanted to join the makeup on, too. She has her own little sponge and everything.

There's a "Glee" campaign on Facebook...

I know. I've seen it. It's funny. It's sweet. So flattered that there's a group of fans that have made it their mission to get me on "Glee."

I'd love to be on that show someday, but I don't want to do it arbitrarily. I want to be on it for the right part.

How you were "Glee"?

My God! I have all the episodes on iTunes!

Charice Pempengco will be on it soon.

That's awesome.

There was talk on "The Buzz" that you'd play her mom.

I wouldn't mind, but I haven't been asked. I don't know how the wildest rumors get started. It's embarrassing already. I wouldn't want to say or do anything that would jeopardize my chances of being on that show someday.

There's also a like version of "Miss Saigon," under "Precious" director Lee Daniels?

Finally they are going to do it.

It requires a special director with a lot of intelligence, someone who will treat every minority actor and every minority character in that musical with respect and dignity.

It's easy to label the women in the show as prostitutes, but that would be unfair. It's just more honorable to dig deeper and make those women three-dimensional and whole.

One stage director Nikolai Foster says like that. He's so smart.

How you've been asked to be part of the movie?

I'm turning 43. I'm not going to be asked.

How about the other roles, Ellen or Gigi?

I think they'd pick an American. Americans to play Ellen. It's not really up to me. As for Gigi? I'd probably have to lose 20 pounds to wear a bikini and I'd really rather not do that.

I get to play Ellen, off and on, for 10 years. That was a pleasure.

Will another Filipina play Kim?

It can be anybody. They would real. ly have to scour and search for the right person. And I think it would be worth the effort, to find that special young woman who is charming and beautiful and sings like crazy.

What's your advice to the girl who'll play Kim?

Don't take it too seriously. I made that mistake.

It's a role. Don't make it your life.

Enjoy the process. Enjoy the people. Enjoy the music. It's beautiful stuff.

Fall in love with your surroundings. Take lots of pictures...of the makeup, the your co-stars, the set. Those are priceless.

Keep a journal. If there's anyone famous you are working with, get their autograph. Take a picture with them.

Did you get an autograph of Jonathan Pryce (who played Eng. Engineer on "Miss Saigon")?

Nah, I worked with him every day. I was dumb (sily).

But then he played Juan Ponce in Habeas's "Fatima"?

Had I known!

What's your take on the popularity of musicals?

I'm happy that a show like "Glee" took TV. It makes a larger portion of the population interested in musicals and related theater. More people are now acquainted with the art form and have wonderful fun.

I love Chris Colfer, where he sang "Rose's Turn" from "Gypsy" on "Glee." He is an effing genius. He was brilliant. He could play Elaine Stritch. He can argue about Bravo that performance being better, but he was so astonished, singing and acting wise. He was extraordinarily talented.

There is my defining "Glee" moment.

What ceremony would you take from "Glee"?

Aside from the intense physical pain that I would start experiencing next week?

The people. I'll work with and love wonderful they all are. And of having played such a gripping iconic and tragic character. And seeing how I can further my skills, as an actor, in playing someone like her.

The song is iconic and there isn't much I can do about that. All I can do is entertaining that I can.

How does it feel to be back in another Cameron Mackintosh show?

It's like the "Heart Galdenia," you can check out any time you want, but you can't ever leave.

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Different side of Gretchen

THE ever-intriguing Gretchen Barretto accompanied partner Tonyboy Cojuangco to the Cultural Center of the Philippines on the evening of Saturday, July 10, for a screening of the Cinemalaya film, "Ligo, na." At the lobby, Gretchen bumped into former belle Filmi co-star Evelyn Vargas. After the obligatory mushy and pleasantries, Evelyn reminded Gretchen: "I loved the singing you used to bring to the set of our old movies." Gretchen, smiling broadly: "Oh, do you miss my singing?" Boyon Sun (Page 8)

The truth about 'Cats'. . .

from page 43

It's almost humorous, to be blunt about it. Everyone knows everybody. When someone starts having a relationship with somebody, ok done. That's just wrong!

What's your take on reality shows? Even Cinderella was a product of a reality show. Don't you wish everyone took the musical theater path instead?

I'm old-school. I have nothing against singing competitions. The road to the end was just so rough. Kudos to Gloria. That's hard and I don't think I can do it. I'd rather have The Jilton [Gemtilo Awards of Repertory Theater] artistes in me.

But there are shows, like 'Pinoy Big Brother,' that seem to be a fast track to fame. If you can get fame that quickly, it would disappear just as quickly.

Are the reality show producers prepared for fame?

I dunno. After having those known voices auction happens, you feel that you could overbid for it and, in some way, deserve it, if it happens quickly. I'm not so sure.

Some of them might be better equipped than others. While some of them might not be able to cope...because that is a very strange, fickle and stressful moment.

Everyone will nitpick about your hairbody hair. Everyone will have an opinion. If you are not strong enough, you might not make it.

There are still lots of stage roles you can do: 'Fefe,' 'Mildred'?

Yah. It's hoping to get to play them before I turn 45. I want to be like Maestra Lualdirgen when I grow up. She looks amazing.

Do you want to direct like Maestra?

I don't have the sensibility of a director. I have the sensibility of a coach, though. Maestra has given me senses to coach in the past. It turned out to be a good experience.

I can't direct because you have to think about lighting, sound, choreography, the actors. I'd much rather do one-on-ones with actors, within the parameters set by the director.

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What's hot, what's not in college course choices

By Chelo Bassil-Formoso
Learning Editor

WHENEVER the economy is on a downturn, as it has been worldwide in the past two years, people begin to realize that some jobs are more desirable than others because they are more stable.

Recent university graduates who pulled their degrees based on projected income alone have found out that, as this journeys, job security is a never-more important criterion in course selection.

Global labor statistics and employment projections indicate that some careers have withstood the test of both time and recession. (See tables.)

The evergreen occupations, it turns out, are in the fields of education—teachers in all levels and guidance counselors continue to be in demand—as well as healthcare, which means doctors, surgeons, pharmacists, dentists and dental hygienists, therapists and, of course, nurses.

But information technology remains the hottest arena for headhunters, who will be kept busy scouting for software engineers, systems managers, data communications analysts and the like. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), software developers, according to the site global-labour-issues.suite101.com, are fetching the highest salaries, with zero tax.

Because of the latter-day rise of the investment and banking big boys in the United States, luminous have become many of financial planners, investment advisers, futures traders and fund managers but, in the succeeding years, there will be a healthy demand for their services in Canada, Australia and Singapore. (See tables.)

What to major in

So what college degrees are Filipino students pursuing, and how great their prospects in the global job market?

Courses in the medical and allied disciplines as well as hotel and restaurant management (HRM) are hands down at the most favored programs in the country.

Random interviews conducted by the Inquirer revealed that nursing, tourism and medical technology are among the most popular courses at the University of Santo Tomas and the Ateneo University. HRM is also top choice at De la Salle-College of Saint Benilde. At University of the East, however, dentistry takes the cake.

The choice of nursing is consistent with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) projections for 2010 where the medical and allied disciplines are No. 1, with a projected increase from 307,253 to 756,778 enrollees or 46.31 percent.

From its the latest available actual data from CHED, the course with the most number of enrollees in school year 2008-2009 was nursing, with 489,793 students. HRM came far second with 360,360 enrollees.

Nursing accounted for a huge 79.22 percent of the total enrollment in the healthcare programs for school year 2008-2009.

In the span of 10 years—from school year 1999-2000, the rate of increase in enrollment in the medical and allied disciplines was 245 percent. Thus, from 150,634 in school year 1999-2000, the enrollees in the said disciplines more than tripled to 517,253 in school year 2008-2009.

Luckily, nurses will remain employable in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, according to labor statistics.

As for the HRM program, it can always report its culinary and food preparation students in Canada where skilled tradespersons rank high as desirable employees. The other markets for HRM graduates are cruise ships and the innumerable tourist destinations throughout the world.

Info-tech numbers

The students who in 2008-2009 were among the 142,431 enrollees in information technology (IT), the 90,149 in computer science and the 45,803 in electronics and communications engineering have better opportunities in the global market. Gone are the days when IT-related occupations are expected to keep sizzling in the ensuing years.

There has also been a notable rise in local enrollment in IT, a 47.46 percent increase in the decade from 1999 to 2009.

CHED, however, has projected a decrease of 10,689 in IT enrollment.

Those who in 2008-2009 took up elementary education (86,587) and accountancy (85,264) must be doing so had in the hope that the long-term vacations and accessories are on the most-wanted list, jobwise that is.

Teacher training enrollment, however, has tapered in the last 10 years by 1.27, 23.0 (-26.45 percent), which explains the chronic shortage of educators in the country.

The sad news is that projections by CHED indicate that teacher education enrollment will go down again by 33,031.

Up, down in a decade

Other disciplines that have registered a steady increase in enrollment in the past 10 years include business administration (BA) and related programs (18,430 or 2.91 percent), service trades (11,645 or 186.52 percent), social and behavioral sciences (10,922 or 17.38 percent), humanities (6,939 or 32.32 percent) and fine and applied arts (1,923 or 39.99 percent).

Disciplines that have posted decreases in enrollment in the past 10 years are law and jurisprudence (806 or -4.01 percent), religion and theology (3,052 or -28.11 percent), mathematics (1,203 or -22.03 percent), architectural and town planning (4,398 or -10.66 percent), natural science (6,213 or -21.34 percent), mass communication and documentation (14,811 or -10.86 percent), engineering and technology (18,819 or -3.36 percent), agricultural, forestry fisheries, veterinary medicine (21,054 or -20.17 percent) and nursing (40,302 or -36.94 percent).

Projected rise, fall

Other disciplines grouped projected by CHED to have an increase in enrollment are trade, craft and industrial (8,233), humanities (763) and fine and applied arts (790).

Those that are expected to see a drop in enrollment in the CHED projections include BA and related courses (75,224), engineering and technology (26,855), agriculture, forestry, fisheries, science and (15,053), maritime (13,441), social and behavioral sciences (1,393), natural science (1,555), architectural and town planning (1,795), law and jurisprudence (1,574), mass communication and documentation (1,250), service trades (1,020) and religion and theology (146). With a report from Inquirer Research

Top 10 jobs in the US that will have the most openings in the next eight years, sorted by level of education required, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

GRADUATE DEGREE HOLDERS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDERS	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL
Postsecondary teachers	Elementary school teachers*	Registered nurses
Doctors and surgeons	Accountants and auditors	Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants
Lawyers	Secondary school teachers**	Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses
Clergy	Middle school teachers**	Computer support specialists
Pharmacists	Computer system analysts	Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologists
Educational, vocational and school counselors	Computer software engineers, applications	Automotive service technicians and mechanics
Physical therapists	Network systems and data communications analysts	Preschool teachers*
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	Computer software engineers, systems software	Insurance sales agents
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	Construction managers	Heating, air conditioning and refrigeration technicians
Instructional coordinators	Market research analysts	Real estate sales agents

* Except special education
** Except special and vocational education

Top 10 jobs in the UK, Canada, Australia and Singapore today and/or over the next five years

UK[1]	CANADA[2]	AUSTRALIA[3]	SINGAPORE[4]
Data communications analyst	Financial manager	Organic farming specialist[5]	Computer & information systems manager
Marketing officer	Skilled tradesperson[6]	Investment banker, securities broker	Editor (newspaper & periodicals)
Software engineer	Community college or vocational school teacher	Mining worker[7]	Business management consultant
Medical administrator	Dentist or dental hygienist	Online information service	Legal professional[8]
Community nurse	Computer and information systems managers	Child care manager	Research & development manager
Advertising executive	University professor	Veterinarian	Futures trader, broker
Customer service assistant	Human resource specialist	Financial planner, investment advisor	Advertising creative director
Intermediate officer	Pharmacist	Accountant	Physicians, surgeons
Administrator	Registered nurse	Medical/hospital professional[9]	Commercial airline pilot, flight inspector
Engineer	Retail manager	Biotechnologist	Event manager

[1] Source: Abic.co.uk
[2] Source: canadalearning.com
[3] Source: dfat.gov.au
[4] Source: Asiaflight.com
[5] Includes chief, shearsmen, carpenter, plumber, aviation technician, auto mechanics, industrial mechanic, etc.
[6] Includes ecologist, biodynamic farming specialist, researcher, etc.
[7] Includes chemical and material engineer, geologist, surveyor, cartographer, electrician, welder, safety inspector, etc.
[8] Includes surgeon, anaesthetist, pediatrician, nurse, occupational therapist, medical technician, radiologist, ambulance officer, etc.
[9] Includes lawyer, advocate, solicitor, etc.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

UP Diliman students cop top prize in Asia business concept contest

A MULTI-DISCIPLINAL TEAM of UP Diliman won the second prize in the BTMU 2010 Asian Students' Venture Forum competition for the best business concepts using new technology held recently in Beijing, China.

Composed of Business Administration students Bernice Ong Tiatco, Karen Gail Bibby, and Michelle Ann Hidalgo; Public Administration student Adrian Chu; and Ezekiel Vicente, Mass Communications student Julio Dennis Silvestre; and Interior Design student Lizzelei Evelyn Arcilla, the Philippine team was over-teams from eight other universities in Singapore, Japan, Korea, and China.

The UP team presented "Language Live," a concept for online Mandarin language tutorials, during a program at Renmin University. First prize went to one of the teams from Singapore and the third prize went to one of the teams in the finals.

The students' participation in the forum under their part of Asia Entrepreneurship Community (AEC), a network of university students of China, Korea, Singapore, Japan, and the Philippines who exchange business resources information in the field of new technology and are concerned with venture entrepreneurship.

ETRO, the forum sponsor, is one of Japan's top global companies. The forum is co-sponsored by The Asian Economics Daily with the support of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Small and Medium Business Administration, the Institute of Korea Entrepreneurship Development, and the Peking University Korean Students Association.

DLSU-D starts La Salle Centennial Countdown

JOSE MARIE THE CAFE WENCESLAO LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-DASMARIÑAS (DLSU-D) held its kick-off ceremonies for the Centennial Countdown simultaneously with other De La Salle schools across the country. A team of the Holy Spirit admin, Jun Perez was held at the Gymnasium La Salle. It was also during this time where the Centennial symbol and countdown of DLSU-D for the upcoming celebration of the 100 years of Lasallian presence in the Philippines were presented. Some of the major components are the Great Hour was Lasallian Star to be formed by Lasallians all over the country, Centennial songs, and the Iconic Book on the Life of St. John Baptist de La Salle. After the mass, a countdown program for the La Salle Centennial celebrations was held. The electronic countdown timers located at DLSU-D's Lobby 1 and Gate 3 were simultaneously launched, therefore officially starting the countdown towards the Centennial Celebration. The timers would be posted in various websites and La Salle schools in the country.

Miriam College's new music program for kids

YOUNG CHILDREN WHO HAVE TO DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION WORKSHOPS because of their physical ability to the age of participation. To learn more their psycho-motor skills and motivation and participation, the Center for Applied Music of Miriam College recently launched an innovative program which will be based on a child's play into learning. Known as the Orff Approach or Music for Children, it teaches music to kids through singing, chanting, dance movement, drama and the use of percussion instruments. Conceived in the 1920s by German composer and educator Carl Orff, known for his creation "Carmina Burana", the program is based on his belief in the importance of rhythm and movement. The program has an important connection as teachers design their own lesson plans and adapt it to suit the size of the class and the age of students. She may choose a song or a story to read, and students participate by choosing instruments to represent characters in the story or poem. Using the Orff Approach, students learn about rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, form and other elements of music. The course also gears to an Augsburg Extension with the workshop activities in order or accompany expenses around, and support with a medical or culminating activity. For inquiries or this program, call 426-6022.

Zero plastics use kicks off at CLSU

COMEAUX, A USE OF PLASTICS IS GOING TO BE AWEARD AT THE CENtral Luzon State University (CLSU) campus. As one of the university's strategies to pursue its "Zero Solid Waste" project and implement its comprehensive environmental management plan, CLSU will ban plastic bags, wrappers, styrofoam containers starting July 19. The ban will also cover all single-use products, and all other non-biodegradable materials on campus. Tarpaulins and other materials used in the campus activities are acceptable as long as it is aware of sustaining disastrous consequence. It is also pursuant to the provisions of Ra No. 9003 known as Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Solid Waste Management Code. The ERP which is a major part of the CLSU Strategic Plan outlines activities of the different units of the university, working on different environmental concerns. It is stated to "develop a responsible personal behavior to value and consumed management of resources of the community through a viable livelihood program." A series of awareness campaigns will be conducted to inform the entire CLSU community - from the top officials to the students, bicycle drivers and vendors - to make them aware of the ERP and the various activities that will be implemented by the university and encourage them to actively participate in the program.

University of Batangas Lipa campus groundbreaking

EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS IN LIPA CITY HELD TODAY THE FIRST GROUNDBREAKING of University of Batangas satellite Batangas City. The UB Lipa Campus (UBLC) is strategically located near the route for some CSAV Subway's Sto. Tomas Bell, situated between Barangays Mataas na Bukid and Balintawak. Consider the city that has been completed as of May 2010. The proposed campus is to be open last fall July 7. Sir hand to lower the symbolic first spade in the ground were Dr. Hernando S. Perez, presently president, and the new Batangas Governor Atty. Vilma B. Mayo is but. Board of Regents). The 3.5 hectare campus will initially house a two-storey building that will include the administrative offices, classrooms, laboratories and multi-purpose activity hall. While its full expansion by SY 2011-2012, the following programs will be offered: AB Legal Management, AB Political Science, BS Psychology, Bachelor of Elementary Education, Bachelor of Secondary Education, BS Information Technology, BS Hospitality Management, BS Tourism Management, BS Computer Science, BS Information Technology, BS Business Administration, BS Accountancy, BS Computer Engineering and Science High School Program (secondary level).

UPH holds simultaneous earthquake drill

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS OF the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA took part in simultaneous earthquake drills recently in the eight Perpetual Help campuses, hospitals and subsidiary companies, in accordance with the nationwide government campaign into July 7 - "The Greatest Conspiracy Drill Ever" in order to educate and test the students on how to respond to a large earthquake that might hit the country. Dr. Ted Ambrosio L. Tanseco, board chair and CEO of the UPHC, ordered the said simultaneous earthquake drills in order to combat the culture of disaster consciousness.

PWU, ROMBLON STATE UNIVERSITY INK MOA

The Philippine Women's University and Romblon State University signed a memorandum of agreement to jointly manage and implement a Master of Arts in Environmental Management and Certificate courses in Governing in Romblon Province. Shown at the signing ceremonies held in the PWU Taft campus, Manila are PWU board chair Dr. Rosa Z. Benitez (center), PWU president Dr. Jose Gregorio de los Reyes and PWU CEO and board trustee Alfredo Negre (extreme right). Seen here as witnesses are Dr. Bernardo Pascual, PWU and Commissioner Dr. Rene Raya of the Commission on Higher Education. The distance education program on environment and natural will be offered in school under partnership and is pursued in PWU's distance education center granted by CHED.

BRITISH JOURNALIST OLLY STEED INSPIRES KIDS

Talking history with Olly Steed (center) are (from left) Angelica Cruz, Ms. Jessica Ang, Ms. Jessica Ang, Ms. Jessica Ang

RP tops in game design; other math notes

MA. REGINA ESTUAR, chair of the literature de Manila University computer science and information systems department, has good news.

Its interdisciplinary team composed of Wilhanson Li (computer science/mathematics), Rodrich Tan (management engineering), Philip Cheung (fine arts-animation design) and Levi Tan Ong (chemical engineering, University of the Philippines) was first place in the Imagine Cup Microsoft Imagine Cup World Finals for Game Design in Warsaw, Poland.

An annual Microsoft competition, the Imagine Cup has five categories: software design, embedded development, digital media, information technology challenge, and game design.

In the early 2000s, forums also were in the corner when it was still the 88-pound Ave Competition. Since it was renamed the Imagine Cup in 2003, our team has made it to the world finals three times. This year we finally emerged champions.

No to $1 million

Berkshire Tourism multimillionaire Grigori Perelman was awarded in March the $1 million Clay Math Institute Millennium Prize for solving the Poincaré conjecture. A few weeks ago, he announced that he does not want to accept the money was final.

In 1900, French mathematician Henri Poincaré postulated a complex problem in topology, the study of properties of objects that are unaltered, deformed or twisted, but not broken up.

The conjecture sounds esoteric, and the simplest explanation is found in Wikipedia: "The Poincaré conjecture is a theorem about the characterization of the three-dimensional sphere among three-dimensional manifolds. The claim concerns a space that locally looks like ordinary three-dimensional space, but is connected, finite in size, and lacks any boundary. The conjecture claims that if such a space has the additional property that each loop in the space can be continuously tightened to a point, then it is necessarily a three-dimensional sphere."

In 2006, Perelman turned down the Fields Medal (the math equivalent of the Nobel). This time, he declined the Millennium Prize, saying he was only following in the footsteps of another mathematician.

I am not sure I agree with Perelman's decision, but I admire him for his devotion to intellectual pursuits. He solved the conjecture not for the prize but for the sheer joy of exploration, something sorely lacking in this increasingly world.

May his example inspire other scientists (and artists) to renew their dedication to their craft above all else.

Singapore math

Valerie Khoo writes: I was your student in the Edu-Psych class (you conducted for) the Xavier School teachers. I was wondering if you could refer me to somebody who could teach Grade 4 parents and a couple of my teachers to do Singapore math. Apparently a progressive preschool is supposed to start familiarizing students with the Singapore math style to prepare them for the big school. We have students that are already in Grade 4 years old to 11 years old. This training would really help our kids.

My reply: I have been receiving a lot of queries on Singapore math. For the record, I think if the teachers are trained well, it can be a good method for kids to understand math.

Xavier is one of the schools already doing Singapore math. I think their teachers can help you. Ask the math teachers who were in my class with you.

There are other schools doing the model approach, and they may have training sessions for their teachers that you can join. Many centers specializing in Singapore math are opening up, but I am not certain about their quality.

Australian math

Mercie S. Lazarito of Cadiz City writes: May I seek your help in converting 4/7 fractions Math to a base 10 Math to speed calculation? I have checked their website but it seems that access to further information is for members only and requires a password.

My reply: The Australian Mathematical Society is the umbrella society of math in Australia, with website at www.amsi.org.au. They are a source for organization and most, if not all, of their members are teaching math in Australia.

Numberland

Bells Mahoney says: The book "Alice's Adventures in Numberland" may interest you. I am sending a link to a review in the Independent on May 21 (www.independent.co.uk).

My reply: Thank you for your suggestion. I have not yet read an actual copy (I don't think the book has reached our shores) but, from the reviews on the Net, I think the book is worth reading.

Alex Bellos approaches math in a quirky vein. Using stories and exercises to mind-of-equations, Bellos takes the reader on a journey from geometry and number to probability and computers, with snippets of fascinating trivia. I look forward to reading the book soon.

E-mail the author at bbschool@yahoo.com.

IMAGINE The Imagine Cup winning team members (L-R) Rodrich Tan, Levi Russell Tan-Ong, Wilhanson Li, and Philip Cheung receive their prize.

BOOK DONATION TO KAWIT LIBRARY The Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. represented by TYKFI trustee Cesar E. A. Virata (1st from left) donates 300 books to the Kawit Public Library in Cavite, represented by Kawit Mayor Reynaldo Aguinaldo, at Nacional Historical Commission deputy executive director Emelita Almonaro, retired Supreme Court justice Antonio Nachura, and councilors Joris Jan and Alvin Baong (left to right).

University of Baguio integrates technology in enrollment process

THE UNIVERSITY of Baguio has partnered with Pinnacle Technologies Inc. to upgrade its enrollment system.

The school has acquired the innovative ARMS (Academic Information Management System) designed to simplify and manage all aspects of the enrollment process.

The system covers student applications, applicant approval, subject and section offering, student enrollment (registration and payment), faculty grading and even student graduation and can streamline procedures to reduce long queues and reduces processes and procedures.

ARMS is a comprehensive e-infrastructure containing various modules to suit all enrollment needs of a school. These include application, online enrollment, student registration, faculty and student modules.

Pinnacle president Jose Ramon Hernandez Philippine educational institutions to try ARMS it can be quickly and easily integrated into an existing school IT infrastructure.

Call Pinnacle Technologies 477-9999 or 3120888, e-mail sales@pinnacle.com.ph or visit www.pinnacle.com.ph.

Pinnacle Technologies Inc. is a pioneering information technology company that creates systems to help local government units and agencies, academic institutions and small and medium enterprises achieve financial stability, operational efficiency and global competitiveness through E-commerce.

HIGH SIGNING University of Baguio's Dr. Hilario P. Pacoling, Dr. Esmeralda M. Gatchalian, Johnson Bar A. Bautista, and Lloyd V. Chiluna, with Pinnacle's Jose Ramon and Angel Ramos

Tourism education needs gov't help

THE GOVERNMENT must extend financial assistance for the development of hospitality management schools to encourage tourism as a major income-generating industry for Filipinos.

This was stressed by Robert Lim Joseph, chair emeritus of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies, in his speech at the 36th general assembly of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE).

Joseph said the country produced nearly 20,000 graduates a year in hotel and restaurant management, but about 90 percent could not even speak English.

He said the country had to invest in making TESD graduates competitive or they would have nowhere to go.

Joseph also said trainers in hospitality management had to be trained to upgrade tourism education.

He said TIAM (Tourism Educators and Movers) Philippines had submitted a request to Pebruary to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for a subsidy of P20 million to improve tourism education. But, so far, the group had been ignoring the two-armed.

Joseph said 40 percent of travel and airport taxes and other fees charged on travelers, amounting to almost P35M million a year, went to CHED.

In the meantime, Joseph said TEAM Philippines was spearheading the development of a cultism of tourism that involved not only hotels and restaurants but transport but also inculcating values like love of country, protection and preservation of nature, history and imagery that class, guilt and corruption among others.

TEAM Philippines had been holding seminars all over the country to promote the culture of tourism. It was also encouraging local governments to create tourism councils and pass ordinances that promoted tourism in their localities, Joseph said.

He said local tourism councils conducted inventories of tourist spots and drafted tourism master plans.

JOSEPH (2nd from left), with (from left) Fr. Jose V. Pinon, O.P., of Colegio de San Juan de Letran; and FUSE chair emeritus Lucio C. Tan and president Enrique Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III

UPCAT workshop slated June 25 at SMX

TO HELP STUDENTS prepare for the University of the Philippines College Admission Tests (UPCAT) scheduled Aug. 7-8, educator and author Vicky Gutierrez, a 50-year UPCAT review veteran, together with professor Leopold Lasat and engineer Bob Perez, is conducting the UPCAT Workshop at SMX Convention Center at 1-4 p.m. July 25.

Pre-educators will also launch the book "20 Tips to Pass the UPCAT the Sure Way," which will be given to the first 500 school students who register and will teach Test-Wise Taking skills.

The workshop is open to parents and students. For ticket reservations, contact (02)8961267 or 0920-8178838, or visit www.upcatreview.com.

Ateneo hosts Asian organization annual summit

THE 37th Asia Organization Development Summit will be held Oct. 27-29 at Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

This year's theme is "Transforming Asian Organizations towards Global Competitiveness and Sustainability." Experts and speaker is Christopher Pixley research scientist of University of Southern California's Center for Effective Organizations and former director of Population Services International Development Programs.

Those registering on or before July 27 can get the early bird rate.

The annual summit is a venue for organization development (OD) practitioners to exchange unique and best practices, be updated on cutting-edge research and to network with peers.

Around 200 managers, professionals, consultants, educators and scholars in OD and allied fields are expected to attend.

The Asia OD Network (AODN) was formed in 2009 by a group of scholars and practitioners from or based in Asia to allow OD professionals to network with each other and share knowledge and best practices with special emphasis on the unique needs of the region.

The annual OD summit was launched to promote AODN and its objectives. It is held to a different Asian country every year.

For inquiries, e-mail aodn2010@gmail.com or asiaaccord@admu.edu.ph or call 4265011.

Angel Locsin's love for learning

ANGEL LOCSIN has many interests and passions that drive her love for learning new things and hobbies.

In 2007, she took a break from show business to take a two-week intensive course in fashion design at the London College of Fashion. And, according to Pauline Asal, she's also considering to pursue another course in college.

Locsin said, not only did friends tell her college life was exciting, she also considered it important to have something to fall back on when she left show business.

Locsin's passion for learning extended to her job. She researched diligently her roles, attended acting workshops, and made sure she was letter-perfect in delivering her lines.

With her work as an actress and her many interests behind the camera, Locsin has to keep her mind sharp and alert. The actor relies on Omega 3 DHA or docosahexaenoic acids, essential fatty acids that help boost brain memory power, to enhance her learning ability and problem-solving skills while maintaining a positive mood.

To maximize the benefits of Omega 3 DHA, Locsin said she made sure she had a well-balanced diet everyday that included tuna. The actor said she visited on her favorite Century Tuna, a rich source of Omega 3 DHA, to provide her the required daily amount of the important nutrient.

Locsin said Century Tuna's flavorful variance even inspired her to learn how to cook, an interest she would want to emphasize nowadays after playing a chef in a television serial.

ANGEL Locsin

National finalists ...

From page F4

State, former de Manila University-Quezon City).

The Outstanding Teachers will get gold medallions, plaques and P100,000 cash each during the formal awarding ceremonies at Shrivehak Plaza that will highlight the 48th anniversary celebration of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company on Sept. 5.

Now on its 26th year, the awards honors the teaching profession by recognizing teachers who manifest profound commitment to the development of the youth through exemplary competence, remarkable dedication in their work, and an effective educational leadership.

Hard-core values in a free-for-all age

By Elizabeth Ladrega
Contributor

SHARE THE FOOT of Magallanes Bridge in Sta. Mesa, Manila, on the right side coming from Ayala, is an unobtrusive school that has been producing high school students whose core values include refusing to plot snazzy hoods and double-parked because this is an infringement on intellectual property rights.

What the students of the Christian Academy of Manila (CAM), mainly children of soldiers, pastors, workers, Makatizens or chefs, are insisting is they have a good fighting chance of overcoming their hardwon-little-by-little they earn the day without losing sight of what is good and bad, just and unjust.

The jeopardy where the school stands was thwarted by Yap Tin, wife of fellow Fookjo Kee, founder of the school because he was finding some subjects. When it was schools, another difficult period passed and CAM made it turned out in less than five years.

The current administration, led by Sister Sheila Penaflor, believes that the children's parents are entrusted to the country so they are given an education to prevent discontent on failure. Some who are more in need ready for free.

But the school believes in "making the parents pay a little as they do not take education for granted," Penaflor says.

Principal Brenda Ilan says the "small, easy to manage classes, very active varsity program and family camps from prep to high school" make CAM different from Roman Catholic or other schools that carry the generic "Christian" label.

Ilan says CAM values "transparency so how the school is run, integrity here is important. There is harmony among employees."

Second chances

In a classroom, the rate is one teacher to seven children. Here, even a student who is considered a choker and who would have been kicked out of a traditional school, is given a second chance.

One student was put under parental supervision for fighting with a security guard who caught him smoking. As his grades were down, he was given special attention in mathematics and science. He shaped up and took a special examination, getting a final grade of 99 percent.

A visit to the learning center shows access to one student to computer ratio. This is in line with the school policy of combining traditional education with new technology.

So, in teaching science, for example, a computer is used to project sentences: "Without metals, life would be tasteless." A video is projected onto a white board showing a room with stoves, dials and other things, a lot of people's names, and even seemingly abstract ideas with names (faith, hope and love).

Only the teacher in this subject has control over the mother computer. After a quiz and the teacher is unhappy with the results, he/she can see immediately what is wrong.

The teacher then talks to the child who fared poorly, shows why the answers are incorrect and brings out a big grammar book. The student relishes the quiz, and the teacher checks if the child gets it right this time.

If a student needs more time with a lesson, a copy of the lesson is printed so the child can then bring it home to read and study.

A typical teacher at CAM does not depend on a lesson plan and is

COMPUTERS (top) help teach users of the Net's basics. Discipline is evident in the clean and neat campus (right).

required to have much knowledge of the scope and sequence of the curriculum.

When a child does an exercise in a cupboards room, workbook, he/she has to write the answers to pencil. After the answers are checked and the student is graded, the student erases what he/she has written, so another child can use the book.

Disciplined, accountable

The CAM kids are disciplined. They learn what accountability means early on. Items it proud that CAM kids are at least three years ahead, academic-wise, of the Department of Education standards, though students learn according to their own pace, not the teacher's.

But it is not all academic exercises at CAM. Students have home economics, livelihood education, music and arts, and physical education (basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis and chess).

The campus operates to give the student populace of 2,200 lots cost but healthy meals with generous servings, too.

For family camps, children and their parents go to the Hand International Center in Laguna. The center maintains Romanian standards in cleanliness and order, with missionary volunteers from the United States running.

Activities include bowling, swimming, volleyball and fishing.

For a minimum fee of P1,775 for all meals during the three-day camping, it is an all you can, no leftovers allowed.

National finalists in outstanding teachers search

OUT OF 316 nominees, 28 national finalists have been chosen in the Metrobank Foundation Inc. 2010 Search for Outstanding Teachers.

The ten winners of this year's search will be chosen July 21-23 at Metrobank Plaza, Makati City, after a final interview by a board of judges culled from the government, the diplomatic community, the academe and business.

The national finalists consist of four college, eight secondary, and eight elementary teachers.

Elementary level

Finalists in the elementary category are: Haydee F. Hernandez, Sport South Central Elementary School (Agusti, Cagayan); Cheryll A. Ramos, Northern Iloilo Central School (Santiago City, Isabela); Abdi A. Taleda, Instructor Elementary School (Lamitan, Cavite); Grace U. Salvatus, Municipal Science Elementary School (Cabiao, Quezon); Conchita A. Ramirez, San Antonio Elementary School (Iriga City, Camarines Sur); Jocelyn E. Gochuico, President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial School (Iloilo City, Capiz); Mildred B. Polintan, Concepcion City Central Elementary School (Concepcion City, Tarlac, Luzon); and Nancy S. Sporon of Silang West Elementary School (Silang, Cavite).

High school teachers

In the secondary category, finalists are: Esmeralde B. Upublan, Cagayan National High School (Tuguegarao City, Cagayan); Edroso C. Alfuso, Consolacion Integrated School (Mandaluyong City); Jovanie A. Chavez, Rizal Memorial National High School (Taung, Quezon); Ann E. Mitoña, Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (PIE, Camaligan Sur); Joseph Montes Fuentes, Philippine Science High School-Eastern Visayas Campus (Palo, Leyte); Mercedita J. Labial, Xavier University High School (Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental); Herculina D. Villanueva, Hukkican State University Secondary School Laboratory (Maharlika City, Bukidnon); and Emeilita S. Peña, Rizalenian National High School (Balingoan, Zamboanga Sibugay).

College level

College level national finalists are: Dr. Raymund C. Sison, Dr. la Salle University (Manila); Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara, University of the Philippines Diliman (Quezon City); Dr. Orville L. Bandoc, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Los Baños, Laguna); and Dr. Emma E.

(turn to page F5)

UP's gateway to clean air

UP SIGAW members can point their electric car from their emissions for the Ultimate gateway

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman gateway—the Napoleon Abueva installation at the entrance to the campus—has been repainted "green."

As part of the "SIGAW sa sa Hangin" initiative, members of the UP figure (Sa big), as Isidro at in Central organization repainted the gateway with Bayani Fernando. Considered a breakthrough in paint technology, Bayani Fernando is formulated to neutralize air emissions.

The repainting of the gateway is part of the One Million Bayani campaign.

Peter Ilenan Lamasingo, project coordinator of UP Sigaw, said the World Bank identified the Philippines as one of the top 21 nations most at risk from climate change, the highest in Southeast Asia. He said the Filipino youth should be actively participating in efforts to avert a crisis.

But the youth had not been called upon to act on environmental issues, said the UP Sigaw. In view of this, the organization had taken the initiative to generate awareness among the youth and motivate them to act through projects like SIGAW sa sa Hangin.

As part of its promotional campaign, UP Sigaw is distributing comic book style illustrations showing ordinary students being turned into superheroes by Bayani Fernando.

Other groups that have used Bayani Fernando and are supporting One Million Bayani as an advocacy include the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia), Manila Observatory, Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) and the city governments of Makati and Marikina.

Lamasingo said, through One Million Bayani, they wanted to spread the message that everyone could be part of the solution to climate change issues.

The university gateway project was just the beginning of the campaign to get the Filipino people involved in the fight against climate change, Lamasingo said.

To find out more about Bayani Fernando and to find out what groups are joining the movement for clean air, visit www.onemillionbayani.com.

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR UP

Philippine teams were spectators as they cheered on the second Shell Eco-marathon Asia held at the Fi Segang Race Track in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Mapua Institute of Technology was first runner-up in the UP Track award by Safety, won by the NUS Green Concept and the National University of Singapore. Don Bosco Technical College received special recognition for demonstrating safety compliance during the three-day competition. A total of 41 teams from 10 countries participated in the competition's design, build and drive a vehicle that could travel the farthest distance on the least amount of fuel and lowest possible carbon dioxide emissions. Arnaz Israel, managing director, Shell Malaysia Trading Sdn. Bhd. and chief judge for the off-track awards, said, while cars were rated for fuel efficiency, it was important that students worked in a safe manner, socialized their thoughts well, demonstrated innovation in their design and had teamwork.